

STARS AND STRIPES®

**NBA
seeks new
main draw**

Page 28

Detroit's Rasheed Wallace, left, and Ben Wallace

**Struggling Guard
recruiters employ
unusual tactics**

Page 8

**AF scraps blue
test uniform for
subdued tone**

Page 15

New test uniform, left, with rejected uniform

Volume 2, No. 207 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2004

Record turnout expected

ELECTION 2004

- Overseas military rate appears lower
- Scattered problems noted across nation



Kerry



Bush

- Final pre-vote polls show dead heat
- Eyes of the world focused on election

Full coverage, Pages 3-6



A line of voters stretches out the door of Old Town Hall in East Haddam, Conn., on Tuesday. Officials at the polling place said that the voter turnout was "unbelievable."

AP

Remember to
thank your
Command
for today's
copy of Stars
and Stripes.



Your Stars and Stripes is
now printed and
delivered locally from
Kuwait, Iraq, and Qatar
giving you up-to-date
daily news, sports and
entertainment.

Without the assistance
of local commands,
your friends and fellow
soldiers would be
isolated without news
from home.

Contact
Stars and Stripes
circulation with
questions about
delivery at
49-6155-601-455
DSN: 349-8455

To contact a reporter
in the field, email
Iraq@mail.estripes.osd.mil

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Afghanistan kidnapping: Afghan officials are optimistic that three U.N. hostages in the capital will be freed unharmed, a government spokesman said Tuesday, though there was no evidence of any contact with the kidnappers.

The Taliban splinter group that has claimed responsibility for abducting the trio in the Afghan capital last Thursday repeated its threat to kill them — but said it might ease its demand for the United Nations and British troops to leave Afghanistan.

Jaish-al Muslimin, or Army of Muslims, released a videotape on Sunday showing the frightened captives — Annetta Flanagan of Northern Ireland, Filipino diplomat Angelito Nayan and Shipe Habibi of Kosovo.

Sept. 11 trial: A Jordanian-born man who says he served briefly as Osama bin Laden's bodyguard told a German court Tuesday that the al-Qaida leader spoke months before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks of a strike against the United States and said there would be "thousands of dead."

Shadi Abdallah, 28, was testifying at the retrial of Mourir el Motassadeq, a Moroccan accused of helping the Sept. 11 hijackers when they lived and studied in Hamburg. Abdallah says he was one of bin Laden's bodyguards for about two weeks from early 2000 to May 2001.

Sudan crisis: Sudan denied a U.N. claim that Sudanese military and police forces were surrounding several refugee camps Tuesday in the war-torn region of Darfur and refusing access to humanitarian groups, but said angry Arab tribesmen had gathered in those areas.

Christiane Berthiaume, spokeswoman for the World Food Program, said in Geneva that at least 160,000 refugees in western Darfur cannot be reached by road "because of insecurity." She said the U.N. food agency has relocated 88 aid workers, most of them employed by independent aid agencies, from three camps in the Nyala region: Golu, Zaleinge and Nertette.

Former ETA leaders' plea: Six imprisoned former leaders of the armed Basque separatist group ETA have urged it to abandon violence, saying that after decades of bombings and shootings ETA has been defeated by Spanish security forces, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

"The armed struggle that we carry out today does not work," the six men said in a letter to ETA's clandestine leadership, according to the Pamplona newspaper *Diario de Noticias*. Instead, the letter said, ETA should let pro-independence politicians work through Spain's existing institutions to try to achieve ETA's goal of a sovereign Basque nation straddling land in northern Spain and southwest France.

Impeachment rejected: Lawmakers on Tuesday rejected a motion by Shlobodan Milosevic loyalists to urgently start impeachment proceedings against Serbia's pro-Western president.

Members of the ultranationalist Radical Party said President Boris Tadic violated Serbia's constitution when he called on Serbs in Kosovo to take part in Oct. 23 general elections there. Despite Tadic's appeal,



U.S.-Taiwan arms deal: Pro-weapons activists demonstrate outside of the legislature for the Taiwan government's plan to purchase massive amounts of U.S. weapons Tuesday in Taipei, Taiwan. Taiwan's government is eager to buy the weapons, worth \$18 billion. But the legislature hasn't approved a special budget for the deal, and a growing number of scholars, activists and retired generals are lobbying against it. Washington has warned that Taiwan's failure to approve a massive U.S. arms deal would have "repercussions" in America. The sign on the mock-tank reads "Only when you have power can you have peace."

most Kosovo Serbs boycotted the elections, underscoring deep divisions in the ethnic Albanian-dominated province.

Bosnia war crimes: Bosnia's top international administrator on Tuesday warned Bosnian Serb authorities that the country's future depends on their willingness to cooperate with a U.N. war crimes tribunal and arrest war crimes suspects.

Bosnian Serb wartime leader Radovan Karadzic and his top general, Ratko Mladic, are the two most wanted fugitives indicted by the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands. Since the Balkan war ended, Bosnian Serb authorities have not apprehended a single suspect wanted by the tribunal based in The Hague.

Nuclear crises: Challenged by the U.N. nuclear chief to prove their atomic programs are peaceful, North Korea said it would scrap its "nuclear deterrence" if the United States ended its hostile policy and Iran said negotiations with three European countries may "bring fruit."

But North Korea's deputy U.N. ambassador Kim Chang Guk on Monday totally rejected the International Atomic Energy Agency, calling it "a political tool of the superpower." He also accused Japan of allowing U.S. nuclear weapons on its soil and South Korea of nuclear ambitions.

Iran's deputy U.N. ambassador Mehdi Danesh-Yazdi was less strident, but stressed that Tehran "is determined to pursue its inalienable rights to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes."

Rioting in China: Villages were cordoned off and thousands of police kept watch along roads in central China on Tuesday following riots between majority Han Chinese and a Muslim minority that killed seven people and injured 42.

People in the area have been told they could leave only for emergencies, said the head of a mosque in the village of Nanren

near the fighting's epicenter in Henan province. Martial law was lifted over the area on Monday, the imam said, but "we're still being told not to leave unless we absolutely have to."

States

Casino strike: Thousands of striking casino-hotel workers have reached a tentative contract agreement that signals an end to a bitter, month-old walkout — the longest in Atlantic City, N.J., casino history.

The union representing about 10,000 striking bartenders, cocktail servers, housekeepers and other service employees approved the five-year deal late Monday. It calls for significant gains in wages and benefits and guards against the casinos' practice of leasing space to non-union restaurants and bars.

Freeway shootings: Two teenagers arrested Monday were accused in a shooting on an eastern Missouri interstate, one of a series that had sparked fears of a possible sniper aiming at motorists.

Police said the two were firing a .22-caliber rifle at a sign across Interstate 44.

One person was wounded in the shootings — a truck driver whose head injury on Oct. 21 was not life-threatening. Jeffrey Hubbard, 21, was charged Monday with second-degree assault in the case of the injured trucker. Both he and Paul Murta, 18, were charged with shooting across a highway, a misdemeanor.

Moussaoui terror case: Lawyers for terrorism defendant Zacarias Moussaoui said Monday they plan to seek further delays in bringing the case to trial while they appeal pretrial issues to the Supreme Court.

The lawyers, in a written motion, said they'll ask the trial judge to postpone all proceedings until they've exhausted appeals for Moussaoui — the only U.S. defendant charged with a terrorism conspiracy that included the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

Correction

The caption on a photo accompanying a story on the reaction of 1st Infantry Division spouses to an announcement on the length of the soldiers' tour in Iraq misspelled the last name of Emily Daigle.

Comics, advice and
horoscope every day
in Stars and Stripes

IN THE STATES

Election Day: Time for the voters to speak

Record turnout expected in first wartime election in a generation

BY CALVIN WOODWARD
AND SCOTT LINDLAU
The Associated Press

In an election that bid to rival the photo finish of 2000, voters chose on Tuesday between President Bush and challenger Sen. John Kerry after a sluggish campaign that intensified through the year.

Bush, voting in Texas, said, "I've given it my all." Kerry, still campaigning in Wisconsin, promised to take the nation "to a better place."

There were long lines at polling places, and officials predicted record turnout in the first wartime election in a generation.

"This election is in the hands of the people, and I feel very comfortable about that," Bush said after voting near his ranch in Crawford, Texas, along with his wife and daughters. On his way back to Washington, he stopped in Columbus, Ohio, and made a few calls from a phone bank. "I promise you, it's me," he told one doubter.

Kerry, who was to vote later in Boston, handed out information packets in the morning to volunteers in La Crosse, Wis., exhorting his supporters to "get the job done."

"We're going to take America to a better place," the Massachusetts senator promised. Aides said he handed out presents on an emotional campaign-concluding flight back home.

It was the first presidential election since the United States plunged into its epochal war on terrorism, and heavy crowds were reported at polling places in the East, the first precincts to open. Long lines snaked out the doors as voters waited, some in the rain, and brought chairs for expected long waits.

The prospect of unprecedented legal challenges hung over Election Day, each side sending thousands of lawyers into motion to monitor the flood of newly registered voters and mount hair-trigger challenges against any sign of irregularity.

There were scattered early reports of machine breakdowns, late openings and other problems. One woman in Toledo sued election officials on behalf of Ohio voters who said they did not receive absentee ballots on time.

"My line of course is that this election ends tonight," Bush told reporters, referring to the expected legal challenges in some districts. He won the presidency in 2000, one after a Supreme Court decision gave him Florida and the Electoral College majority.

Of Kerry, Bush said, "I wish him all the best. He and I are in the exact same position. I'm sure he's happy, like I am, that the campaign is over."



People wait in line to vote in Columbus, Ohio, early Tuesday morning. Long waits were expected throughout the United States as large numbers of Americans headed to the polls.

For his part, Kerry made Election Day appearances in Wisconsin, where residents can register and vote on the same day. Of the reports of long voter lines, he said, "It's just a magical kind of day."

A dizzying final dash across the Midwest and points south capped a campaign that found the contenders deadlocked at every vital turn.

By all signs, voters were engaged. Long lines were reported at precincts from Florida and North Carolina to West Virginia and Michigan. "We even had people waiting in line before we opened at 6:30 a.m.," said Wayne County clerk Robert Pusley in Wayne, W.Va. "In some places, there was more than a dozen people waiting, and that's heavy."

Rain was falling in parts of the Midwest as voters lined up.

Brian Pravel, a 43-year-old welder who lives in Columbus, Ohio, said he had never before had to wait to vote. When he arrived at the Northland Church of Christ at 7:30 a.m., he found a long line of people and waited 45 minutes to cast a ballot. "I thought I was early enough to beat it," Pravel said.

The final pre-election polls turned up tied — 49-49 in one CNN-USA Today-Gallup survey, with Ralph Nader at 1 percent. Tight surveys in Florida and a variety of Midwestern states including Ohio deepened the mystery over who would collect the necessary 270 electoral votes.

Both candidates cast their candidacies as vital to the country's welfare. Bush declared the "safety and prosperity of America" was at stake, and Kerry said that "the hopes of our country are on the line."

Overnight, the Bush campaign sent an e-mail from the president exhorting people to vote — "It comes down to today" — and asking

Machines breaking down, late openings among early troubles

BY ANICK JESDANUN
The Associated Press

Polling places experienced scattered problems Tuesday as legions of lawyers, election-rights activists and computer scientists watched, particularly in battleground states, for any trouble that could disenfranchise voters.

New rules, new voters and a tight presidential contest combined to create "a recipe for problems," said Sean Greene, who was watching Cleveland polls for the Election Reform Information Project, a nonpartisan research group on election reform.

Nearly one in three voters, including about half of those in Florida, were expected to cast ballots using ATM-style voting machines that computer scientists have criticized for their potential for software glitches, hacking and malfunctioning.

Other major concerns were over provisional ballots, new this presidential election and a potential source of delayed counts, and whether poll workers were adequate and sufficiently trained.

"To a certain extent, provisional ballots are second-class votes," said Spencer Overton, a law professor at George Washington University. "You can cast a provisional ballot but we don't know if officials will count it."

Long lines greeted voters in many big cities in closely contested states, and some polls opened late.

that the recipient forward the e-mail to five more people. Kerry e-mailed a message to arms: "When you go to the polls bring your friends, your family, your neighbors. No one can afford to stand on the sidelines or sit this one out."

The nation's first votes cast and counted on Election Day, in the mountain hamlet of Hart's Location, N.H., reflected in miniature what seemed likely to be a large across the country: a horse race in votes, not just polls.

Following a quirky tradition of post-midnight voting in New Hampshire's North Country, 16 people voted for Bush, 14 for Kerry and one for Ralph Nader. Bush beat Democrat Al Gore 17-13 in the hamlet in 2000.

In an 11th-hour bow for Democrats in battleground Ohio, an appeals court in Cincinnati stayed lower court decisions and cleared the way for vote challengers to be present at polling places in the state Tuesday. Democrats had



Jennifer Biddle hangs on to her 2-year-old daughter, Olivia, while casting her ballot at the 20th Precinct in West Bloomfield, Mich.

At one New Orleans precinct, all three voting machines were broken and voters were told to come back later, said Bill Quigley, an attorney working for the NAACP.

In South Carolina, problems were reported in a handful of precincts in two counties using electronic machines. Officials said voters were forced to switch to paper ballots while technicians got the iVotronic touch screens from Electronic Systems & Software up and running within about 90 minutes.

Voters in one Richmond, Va., precinct using an old-style machine briefly cast ballots in the wrong congressional race.

And in Volusia County, Fla., a memory card in an optical-scan voting machine failed Monday at an early voting site and didn't count 13,000 ballots. Officials planned to feed the ballots, in which voters fill in a bubble, and count them Tuesday.

Chellie Pingree, president of the citizens lobbying group Common Cause, said her group was running a toll-free voting complaint and information hotline that logged 20,000 calls by 10 a.m. EST.

"Many of the states where the election is closest and contested is where we're hearing from people most," she said.

Pingree said high turnout meant "more confusion to already overburdened, understaffed polling places, many of which will have as many lawyers and poll challengers as they have people voting."

claimed Republicans were seeking to discourage minority voters by keeping party representatives out of polling stations.

The decisions were quickly appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, where Justice John Paul Stevens declined to overturn the appeals court action in an order issued little more than hour before the polls there opened.

Nedra Pickler of The Associated Press, traveling with the Kerry campaign, contributed to this report. Calvin Woodward wrote from Washington.

Polling sites swamped by crowds

Undeterred by long lines and bad weather, voters cast '04 ballots

BY ROGER PETTERSON

The Associated Press

Voters trying to beat the Election Day rush turned out early in such large numbers in many precincts that they created their own crowds, standing in long lines that snaked outside and down the street, sometimes before the polling places even opened.

Umbrellas and raincoats were needed Tuesday from Texas to the lower Great Lakes, and snow-covered roads were a problem in the Texas Panhandle.

Besides the presidency, voters were filling 34 Senate seats, 11 governorships and all 435 House seats.

Both parties had pushed to evenize turnout among their supporters, and even with early voting in many states, tens of millions were headed to the polls before the long Election Day wound to a close.

"Some polling places voted 25 percent of their entire registered voters in the first hour," said Tom Leach, spokesman for the Chicago Election Board. "That's just unheard of."

"We're seeing lines, people waiting in lines, before the polls opening," said Scott Burnham, a spokesman for the Cook County Clerk's office.

Polling places across North Dakota reported voters waiting in line when they opened. "We've been very busy," deputy Ward County auditor Denise Osterberg said at mid-morning.

In Fargo, Shirley Blake said about 50 people were waiting when she opened a polling place, more than she had ever seen that early in more than a decade of working on elections.

"I've never had to wait in line before," Fred Flueger, 72, said at his polling place on Pittsburgh's South Side, where dozens of people were already waiting when he arrived shortly after polls opened. "Usually, if I had to wait, it would be three to four minutes. There's just a lot of interest in this election."

Turnout at another Pittsburgh precinct clearly was exceeding that of the Bush-Gore race four years ago, said Jay Troutman, the judge of elections at the polling place.



Poll volunteer Ethel Dunson waits for voters to finish in Columbus, Ohio, early Tuesday morning. Lines at that point were about two hours long.

"A good clip is one [voter] per minute, and we've exceeded that," Troutman said about 90 minutes after the polls opened.

"We wanted to come out early to vote but we never expected such a heavy turnout," Linda Russell said as she stood in line before the polls opened in Raleigh, N.C.

Elsewhere in North Carolina, lines of voters snaked down sidewalks and across a street at a Durham precinct, where one man brought a chair to ease the wait.

About 100 people were already in line when Macomb County Clerk Carmella Sabaugh went to cast her own ballot shortly after the polls opened in Warren, Mich.

"I'm predicting up to 75 percent [turnout] in Macomb County," she said. "Every indication I have ... is that this is the election for people. It still seems very polarized — they're either going to support the president or get him out of there."

Up to 7 inches of snow fell in the Texas Panhandle, and Randall County Clerk Sue Bartolno warned voters to be careful on the roads. A winter weather advisory was posted.

In nearby Texas County, Okla., the earlier arrival of the wintry conditions had led many

older voters to turn in absentee ballots Monday.

In southwest Kansas, the polling place for several precincts in Garden City had to be moved because the furnace didn't work in the Finney County 4-B building. Temperatures were in the low 30s.

Snow was likely to cut turnout in nearby Grant County, but "the ones who vote all the time will get out," said county clerk Linda McHenry.

The parking lot was crowded at Dent Middle School in Columbia, S.C., and about 200 people were waiting in line when the polls opened at 7 a.m.

"It's not normal," said 75-year-old Timothy Evans Sr., a longtime poll worker. "Four years ago, we had a little over 100 voters. It's really almost double that amount."

Strangers shared umbrellas in the rain as voters endured waits of two hours or more at polling places throughout Ohio.

"It's our job," Amanda Karel, 25, an Ohio State University graduate student, said as she waited to vote at a banquet hall in Columbus. "It's what we're supposed to do."

Then she joked: "It's the only way to make the ads stop."

Ohio gets challengers

CINCINNATI — Giving a pre-dawn Election Day boost to the GOP, a federal appeals court early Tuesday cleared the way for political parties to send in people to challenge voters' eligibility at Ohio polling places. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to step in.

Overturning the orders of two federal judges, a three-judge panel of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 early Tuesday that the presence of Election Day challengers was allowed under state law. It granted emergency stays that will allow Republicans and Democrats one challenger per precinct each.

Early Tuesday, Justice John Paul Stevens, who handles appeals from Ohio, refused a request to stay the 6th Circuit decision.

The series of rulings came in a pair of lawsuits seeking to block the GOP from stationing challengers at polling places, one filed by a county Democratic group and the other by a black couple who said the Republicans meant to intimidate black voters.

GOP watchers limited

SIoux FALLS, S.D. — A federal judge partially granted Democratic U.S. Sen. Tom Daschle's request to limit the activities of Republican poll watchers, after he accused his opponent and the GOP of intimidating American Indian voters.

The decision early Tuesday morning by U.S. District Judge Lawrence Piersol applies only to voters in Charles Mix County.

Traditionally, American Indians in South Dakota vote heavily Democratic.

As part of the ruling, Republican poll watchers are prohibited from following American Indian voters out of polling places. They are also prohibited from taking down the license plate numbers of American Indians' vehicles.

Daschle took his Republican opponent, the South Dakota Republican Party and GOP election observers to court late Monday, alleging intimidation of American Indian voters. He asked for a temporary restraining order to prevent Republicans from doing anything that would "harass, intimidate or discourage voters."

Voting from space

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — With a quick computer key stroke, space station astronaut Leroy Chiao became the first American to vote for president from space, casting an encrypted ballot via e-mail and urging fellow countrymen to go to the polls Tuesday.

"It was just a small thing for me, but it is important symbolically to show that every vote does count," Chiao said from the international space station a few hours after the polls opened 25 miles below.

From The Associated Press

Campaigns decry misleading phone calls

BY KATHY BARKS
HOFFMAN

The Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. — Some Michigan voters have received phone calls falsely claiming that Sen. John Kerry would make gay marriage legal. In New Jersey, some voters have heard a man claiming to be former Army Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf backing the Democrat. Elderly voters in Pennsylvania have been called and told they are ineligible to vote.

Republicans and Democrats were furious Monday about the blatantly false, 11th-hour political calls to voters and demanded an end to the messages.

Schwarzkopf has endorsed President Bush, but in a recording of a phone call played for The Associated Press, a man identifying himself as the general says, "In 2000, I voted for George W. Bush, but this year I'm voting for John Kerry."

A voice says the message was paid for by the Democratic National Committee.

In a statement from the Bush campaign, Schwarzkopf said the DNC was making fraudulent phone calls claiming that he had endorsed Kerry, and "nothing could be further from the truth, and I demand that they stop immediately."

DNC spokesman Jano Cabrera said Republicans spliced an ad by Gen. Merrill McPeak, a Kerry supporter, to make it sound as if Schwarzkopf was speaking so they could accuse Democrats of dirty tricks. Republicans denied being involved.

In Michigan, in a recording of a call played for the AP, a young woman says, "When you vote this Tuesday, remember to legalize gay marriage by supporting John Kerry. We need John Kerry in order to make gay marriage legal for our city."

Both Kerry and his running mate, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, oppose gay marriage and say marriage should be limited to a man and a woman. Kerry has said he supports civil unions.

The calls began Sunday afternoon, according to Rodell Molineau, spokesman for Kerry's Michigan campaign. The campaign said voters in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Flint and Pontiac received calls.

"We're shocked and pretty much appalled that Republicans would sink to this in the last 48 hours of the campaign," Molineau said.

Michigan Republican Party executive director Greg McNeilly said recorded phone calls have been made by former Michigan football coach Bo Schembechler and Bush to Michigan voters, but he didn't know anything about the calls described by the Kerry campaign.

In Lancaster County, Pa., Republican officials said bogus phone calls have gone to at least a dozen elderly voters, alleging they are ineligible to vote. The calls appeared to target Republican, said Rep. Joe Pitts, R-Pa., who called them "an outrageous effort on the part of someone to try to suppress the vote."

Registered Republican voters outnumber Democrats in Lancaster County more than a 3-to-1 margin.

GOP officials, meanwhile, have been getting reports of phone calls being made by a person who says he's representing the Bush campaign, and then unleashes a string of swear words. Another phone call is said to tell voters they've been drafted for military service because Bush needs them for the war in Iraq.

"There are so many reports of phone calls going on right now that appear to be untoward," McNeilly said.

Military overseas turnout might be down

Stars and Stripes

Although final tallies will not be counted for three months, voters in the military communities of Europe and the Middle East appear to have voted at lower rates this year than overall overseas military personnel did in 2000.

More than 5,000 last-minute ballots were mailed from U.S. post offices in Europe, according to figures released Tuesday by the Air Force. Army and Navy. As of Election Day, 88,788 ballots had been mailed from APO and FPO address in Europe, up 5,250 from Thursday.

The Air Force mailed 42,130 ballots, the Army mailed 36,203 and the Navy, 10,455. The eligible pool of military and depending voters in Europe is about 150,000, many meaning roughly 59 percent of eligible voters mailed back ballots for this year's election.

The number would not include any e-mail or fax ballots that some states allow.

In 2000, after the Federal Voting Assistance Program spent \$35 million in a "Get Out the Vote" campaign, participation in the presidential elections among uniformed citizens stationed overseas reached 69 percent, according to the 16th annual Federal Voting Assistance Program report, issued by the Pentagon in December 2001.

The 2000 military overseas voting rate represented a 5 percentage point increase

in uniformed overseas participation over the 1996 election, the report said.

Among federal civilian employees overseas in 2000, meanwhile, voting participation was 65 percent.

The general U.S. public voting rate in 2000 was 51 percent.

The U.S. Postal Service and Department of Defense officials said in June that overseas servicemembers should cast their absentee ballots no later than Oct. 11.

Mideast turnout lower

As of last week, only about 25 percent of eligible voters deployed to the Middle East had sent in ballots, a voting assistance officer in Kuwait said. In the Central Command's theater of operations, 48,935 ballots were mailed as of Oct. 26.

Lt. Col. Korya James, a voting assistance officer in Kuwait who compiled the numbers, referred all questions this week regarding the ballots to the public affairs officers at CENTCOM's headquarters in Florida, who referred Stripes back to Coalition Forces Land Component Command in Kuwait.

"We do not have specific numbers for you at this time," said Army Maj. Martin Downie, a spokesman at CFLCC.

Some troops serving in the war in Iraq — this year's hottest election topic — say the military emphasized absentee voting, but others get their ballots late in the race. Others are still receiving them.

Spc. Ivan Burden, however, was proactive. He works in an International Zone post office himself, and didn't want to take any chances.

"I found it very easy," Burden said. "I actually voted when I was home on leave."

"That's cheating," interrupted another postal soldier, Spc. Zach Powers. He never got his ballot.

"We're still receiving absentee ballots," Powers said. "Ballots are the most important thing in the postal system right now. They take priority over everything."

Military absentee ballots, and whether they were postmarked on time, became a front line battle in the legal chaos that followed the 2000 election.

Soldiers said that first sergeants and company commanders had been getting the word out to troops to vote.

"We are party neutral, if you will, but for us it's important to make sure that every servicemember has the ability to vote in their local, state and federal elections," said Lt. Col. Steve Boylan, a spokesman for U.S. forces in Iraq. "How they vote and

whether they vote is up to them."

For some, the ballot wait led to creativity.

"I voted, but it took a little while for my absentee ballot to get here," said Pfc. Joseph Rogers of the 89th Military Police Brigade at Camp Victory. "So I had a buddy who was going home on leave mail it for me. I've got a buddy who got his yesterday."

One soldier said that requesting a ballot early was the best tack.

"For me, it was pretty easy," said Sgt. Christian Hughes of the Washington Army National Guard. "I had it a few months ago. I think it depends on when they requested it."

Some soldiers simply chose not to cast their ballots.

"I would have voted if it was easier, myself," said Pfc. Sherwin James, deployed to Logistics Support Area Anacosta.

Other soldiers agreed.

Pfc. Aaron O'Hara with B Co. of the 84th Engineer Battalion from Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, also at Anacosta, said although his squad leader explained the process, it was too much effort to apply for a ballot. He didn't vote. If his unit handed out ballots, he would have, he added.

"I guess I'm too lazy," he said.

Staff writers Ward Sanderson and Juliana Gittler contributed to this report.

Marines in Iraq: They have bigger issues than election

BY EDWARD HARRIS

The Associated Press

NEAR FALLUJAH, Iraq — As Americans head to the polls, U.S. Marines squaring off against Iraqi insurgents say they expect trouble in Iraq for years no matter who wins the White House. What they want is better equipment, more pay and a clear exit strategy from their next commander in chief.

Many Marines fighting in Iraq's Sunni Triangle don't talk much about the race between President Bush and Sen. John Kerry. For them, the focus is on staying alive and following orders that they don't expect to change: Defeat the insurgency and help rebuild Iraq. But what really concerns them is the prospect of an open-ended mission lacking a final benchmark for victory.

"We obviously can't just leave Iraq now and waste all of the good work the Marines have done here," said Hospital Corpsman Quinton Brown, a 24-year-old Chicagoan attached to the 1st Marine Division.

"Regardless, I want to see the next president give us an idea how we're going to end the occupation," he added. "What are we doing while we're here? What's next? Bush has done that to some degree. But we need more."

Based in the dangerous areas west and north of Baghdad are preparing for a possible big offensive against insurgent strongholds if they get the go-ahead from Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, who has warned he is losing patience with negotiations.

But Marine officers caution that



U.S. Marines arrest Iraqi council chairman Taha Rashood following a raid in the Abu Ghraib district of Baghdad on Tuesday. Troops in Iraq say that the political fight at home seems far away, and that they're more focused on the job at hand. Some Marines said what they really want from the election is better equipment, more pay and a clear exit strategy from the next commander in chief.

even if U.S. forces overrun the cities of Fallujah and Ramadi, they don't expect the insurgency to evaporate. And troops on the ground say they've heard nothing from either Bush or Kerry indicating Marines will soon leave Iraq.

"It doesn't matter who the president is. Our role should be less and less here — the Iraqis want to do it themselves. But we'll be here

for at least the next four years," said Lance Cpl. Charles Revord, 24, of National City, Mich.

With violence expected to intensify ahead of Iraqi elections planned for January as a crucial step in the effort to stabilize the country and entrench democracy, Marines say they need better equipment, particularly well-armored Humvees.

"I hope the Marine Corps gets more funding, for better weapons, better gear and better Humvees," said Lance Cpl. Jonathan Sandoval.

"You see those Humvees out there?" he added, gesturing at vehicles jerry-rigged with armor plating so heavy it bows the vehicles' axles. One of the Humvees, its top open to the elements, has been rep-

pered by shrapnel from roadside bombs.

The Marines see their Army counterparts driving professionally armored, closed-back Humvees — provoking an old rivalry. "We work with the worst, but we do the best," said Sandoval, a 20-year-old from Los Angeles.

Many Marines are eager to go after the insurgents.

"The next president needs to stop stalling. We're waiting around and they're getting stronger," Sandoval said of the insurgents.

"At the same time, we're losing a lot of good Marines."

Marines say they would like a boost in danger pay, an increase in base salaries and better health benefits for their families back home.

"Pay should be better, that's for sure. It's a pride thing," said Sgt. Israel Sanchez, 27, also from Los Angeles.

"Tax cuts, that's what everyone wants — tax-free paychecks," said Revord. "But that's just a dream, of course."

As for the political fight that has swirled back home, Marines say it seems millions of miles away, even though some analysts think military write-in ballots could help sway a close race.

Battlefield unity is crucial to survival, so they shy from divisive issues, the Marines say. Members of one Marine company suspect it's Bush country, but no one has taken a tally.

"We don't ask who voted for who. We're focused on our mission," said Sanchez.

"We just want to get back home and get on where we left off."



A pedestrian walks past a newsstand carrying an advertisement for a Chinese magazine with the headline "China's Shadow After the U.S. Election" in Beijing on Tuesday.

Rest of the world drawn into vote with intensity

Polls in many countries show Kerry as the favorite

BY DAVID MCHUGH
The Associated Press

BERLIN — For Americans suffering from election overload as the last hours tick away, a warning: even leaving the United States would offer no escape.

To an extraordinary degree, leaders, people and news media outside the country were riveted by Tuesday's vote, drawn into the Bush-Kerry struggle by a deep-rooted feeling that the world — given today's circumstances — has a huge stake in the outcome as well.

Bush's go-it-alone stance on many issues — from the Kyoto Treaty to the war in Iraq — as well as his religious outlook, his Texas background and single-minded approach, have mobilized and polarized people all over the world, even if they can't vote.

Polls in many countries — and a quick survey of the newspapers and TV — leave little doubt that Kerry is the preferred choice across much of the globe.

Polls in Germany run as high as 80 percent against Bush.

In Britain, the right-wing Economist magazine joined the left-wing Guardian newspaper in endorsing Kerry.

France's Le Monde endorsed Kerry too.

On election eve, Monday, Michael Moore's anti-Bush film "Fahrenheit 9/11" competes on prime time German television with "Wag the Dog," about a U.S. president who starts a war to distract from his domestic troubles,

and with 24-hour news channel reports on the candidate's final day of campaigning.

In Sao Paulo, Brazil, cabdriver Wagner Marques, 54, prefers Kerry and wonders why the race is so close.

"We don't understand America now," he said. "Are they getting different news than us about the scandals in the Iraqi prisons, and the children and civilians who are getting killed?"

Lots of places have held mock polls, such as the artists, writers and professors in the Italian region of Tuscany, who organized what they billed as "the first American elections for non-Americans."

At the heart of the matter is a belief that in an era of globalization, when American decisions affect hundreds of millions around the globe, the election is not a domestic U.S. issue.

"Why shouldn't the Italians vote for the elections, too?" said screenwriter Michele Gelo. "The planet's destiny is decided in large part by America."

Plenty of foreign politicians have clear personal stakes in the outcome — and in these circles the choice is more balanced.

Japan's Junichiro Koizumi and Russia's Vladimir Putin, for instance, have signaled their preference for Bush.

"I don't want to interfere in another country's election, but I'm close to Bush so I'd like him to do well," said Koizumi, who threw in his lot with Bush by sending some 500 Japanese troops to Iraq on a humanitarian mission.

Putin has said a Bush defeat would mean a new impulse for terrorism, a clear sign of preference though he says of preference to make an explicit endorsement.

Bush has toned down criticism of Russia's heavy-handed campaign against separatist rebels in Chechnya in return for Putin's support in the war on terror.

Even the politicians who kept the endorsements to themselves had a big stake.

For France and Germany — dubbed "Old Europe" by U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld — a Kerry White House would mean a chance of mending ties. These nations that refused to help Bush in Iraq may have a problem saying no again if Kerry makes good on his campaign pledge to seek new allies in the war.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, for instance, won re-election in 2002 largely because of his forceful rejection of the Iraq war, which he criticized as "an adventure" and "playing around."

Yet, despite Schroeder's cool relations with Bush, a Kerry win may put pressure on him to back off his refusal to send troops to Iraq.

Germany may want a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council — and may feel pressure to offer something in return, a number of observers have pointed out.

"If a newly elected president calls for a new contribution that we've refused up to now, it won't be so easy to reject as it fortunately has been with the enemy image of Bush," former defense minister Rudolf Scharping said.

U.S. race under close scrutiny in the Middle East

BY TANALEE SMITH
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — One satellite station is urging Arab viewers phone in their votes for President Bush or Sen. John Kerry. Kuwait television planned live coverage overnight until official results are in. The U.S. elections are Page 1 news in almost every newspaper in the region.

No matter the medium, the message was the same: The result of Tuesday's U.S. presidential election will greatly impact the Middle East. And Arabs are paying close attention.

While Middle East governments officially brush off the impact the outcome will have on relations with the United States, many Arabs have been frustrated and angered by what they view as Bush's misguided Middle East policy and American military aggression in Iraq.

"In the Arab world, the consensus is that the Bush tenure has made matters worse, especially for the Palestinians and the Iraqis," said an editorial in the Jordan Times. "Bush's rule has also destabilized the entire world. The war on terrorism appears not to have made a dent in organizations like al-Qaida and others like it."

"Arabs and Muslims are looking forward to the election results," said an Arab writer. "There will be some hope to resolve the issues of Iraq and Palestine," said an editorial in Jordan's pro-Bush newspaper Al-Jazeera. Bush is widely viewed in the Arab world as unfavourably pro-Israel.

Ali Okla Ersan, head of the Arab Writers' Union in Syria, said Arabs are closely following the U.S. elections because "they are directly affected by their results due to the U.S. occupation of Iraq and its repercussions on neighboring countries" as well as the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"We hope that the next U.S. president would take a balanced and objective stand toward our basic issues, especially in Palestine," he said.

In Lebanon, Joseph Samaha, editor-in-chief of the leftist daily As-Safir, wrote that international relations for the foreseeable future will be affected by Americans' decision Tuesday "and the Middle East is at the heart of this equation."

"It is regrettable, Samaha wrote, that the elections "will decide the fate of people who cannot vote in it."

Maybe not for real, but the Arab satellite network Al-Arabiya — promoting its coverage with the slogan, "George Bush or John Kerry? The result will affect us all" — is giving its viewers a chance to pretend.

"If you had the right to vote, who would you elect?" the network asks. Call-in voting began Tuesday before the first Bush campaign stop in the Arab world, opened on the east coast of the United States. Two hours into the

calling, Bush had the early lead: 53 percent to 47 percent for Kerry in the unscientific gauge of viewer interest.

Television stations across the region planned special coverage of the race.

Early in the afternoon, Al-Jazeera satellite network broadcast footage of New Hampshire voters using touch-screen terminals. The station planned live coverage of the polls, international analysts say, as a thorough history of both candidates, particularly their relations with the Arab world.

State-owned Kuwait Television was to air a live program, "The Road to the White House," overnight until results are announced, featuring reports from the United States and analyst comment.

Some Jordanians in the capital, Amman, said they planned to stay up all night to watch election coverage.

Jordanian pharmacist Salma Eissa said she prefers a Kerry win because the Democrats "don't use war to solve the world's problems."

"We saw Bush and we weren't happy with him," she said. "There is no one who likes the war in Iraq. There are other ways to deal with terrorism."

Mohammad al-Fakhouri, 32, owner of a mobile phone shop in Amman, said he was sure Bush would win, though he hoped for a Kerry victory.

"I think there can't be anyone worse than Bush," he said. "He is a bad president. If he stays as president, he will surely destroy Syria and Iran."

Syria's official media said Tuesday it did not make a difference whether Bush or Kerry won the elections.

"Bush and Kerry are the same, as they turn facts upside down," said the English-language Syria Times newspaper in a leading article. "Arabs want fairness, whether it is Bush or Kerry who wins the election."

In Iraq, where the head of the Security Council last week endorsed Bush, President Mohammed Khatami said he has no preference.

"But we hope, they whether Bush or Kerry, will move logically and justly to meet the interests of the American people and in line with noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, detente and establishment of peace based on justice," he said.

One Arab country where the Republican ticket remains strong and the president's father is a hero is Kuwait, a U.S. ally freed by American-led forces under the first President Bush after Saddam Hussein invaded in 1990.

"In Kuwait, we have love and respect for the Bushes because they moved the world to liberate Kuwait from its occupier the toppled Saddam Hussein," wrote a columnist for Al-Anba daily.

"That is why we love the Bush wins ... we owe him and his father."

Specialist LaAndrea LaMarque. 54B Chemical Specialist. U.S. Army Reserve

PART-TIME SOLDIER. FULL-TIME WARRIOR.

©2003. Paid for by the United States Army. All rights reserved.

AN ARMY OF ONE®

ARMY RESERVE

It's not your everyday job.



U.S. ARMY®

Army Reserve Soldiers serve proudly, just like you. After Active Duty, transitioning to the Army Reserve lets you secure important benefits and in most cases retain your rank. For details see your Reserve Component Career Counselor or Retention NCO. goarmyreserve.com/ps



Members of the Army National Guard's ECHO Company 1st-148 Infantry, stationed in Urbana, Ohio, hold hands with other military supporters during an April 2003 "Support Our Troops Rally" in Urbana. The Army National Guard is adjusting its recruiting strategies after falling short of recruiting goals.

SPRINGFIELD (OHIO) NEWS-SUN/AP

Guard adds enticements as recruitment stumbles

By JAMES HANNAH

The Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — Free hunting and fishing licenses. More chances to get signing bonuses. Pink T-shirts for women.

The Army National Guard, which has fallen short of recruiting goals during the prolonged fighting in Iraq, is trying new marketing beyond the traditional enticement of college tuition aid. "There are fewer people who are voluntarily expressing an interest — calling or returning postcards," said Lt. Col. Dan Kenkel, spokesman for the Guard in Nebraska.

Nationally, the Army Guard reached 88 percent of its goal of 56,000 recruits by the end of September, signing up 49,210.

"Recruiting is tougher than it's been in awhile," said James Sims, spokesman for the Ohio Guard,

which is about 500 off its target of 2,100 recruits.

Guard officials around the country blame concerns about the Iraq war, Pentagon orders that keep some soldiers from leaving active duty and going into the Guard, and turnover among recruiters, some of whom have been sent overseas.

Of the 100,000 Army Guard members sent to Iraq, about 110 have died.

In the past, young people saw enlisting as a way to get college tuition with little risk to themselves, said Lt. Col. Greg Haggood, spokesman for the Iowa National Guard. "Today, that risk has changed," he said.

The pink T-shirt bearing the words "Soldier Girl" was designed by Sgt. Stacey Weston, a recruiter in Indiana, to get the attention of potential recruits. She said

the Guard quickly ran out of the first order of 800 shirts.

"A lot of young ladies are under the impression they can't be feminine if they join the military," Weston said. "I wanted to dispel that myth."

The Nebraska Guard was 87 soldiers short of its goal of \$19 recruits. It is plastering several Dodge Stratuses with its decals and logos in hopes of catching the eye of potential recruits.

The number of job-skill categories that pay signing bonuses of \$3,000 to \$8,000 — such as driving heavy equipment — will be upped from 19 to 30 in the Kansas Army Guard. And thanks to the Legislature, its members will be eligible for free fishing and hunting licenses and passes to state parks beginning in January.

Recruiter Lt. Col. Jane Harris said there is no way to tell how many recruits have been influenced by the new marketing.

Defense: Peterson portrayed as 'jerk'

Closing arguments end in case of wife's death

By BRIAN SKOLOFF

The Associated Press

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — Prosecutors failed to prove that Scott Peterson murdered his pregnant wife, Laci, and were telling jurors, "don't bother with the five months of evidence," a defense attorney said Tuesday.

As the defense closing argument got under way, Mark Geragos told jurors that prosecutors portrayed Peterson as a "jerk and a liar" but have not shown him to be guilty.

Geragos accused authorities of waffling on their theory of the crime, first claiming Peterson's affair with Amber Frey was his motive for murder, and later pointing to Peterson's desire to be free from marriage.

"Clearly Amber was not the motive. Nobody was going to kill Laci Peterson and her child for Amber Frey," Geragos said.

The jurors heard the prosecution closing argument Monday and were expected to begin deliberations as early as Wednesday. The trial began with jury selection in March and opening statements in June.

The prosecutors' motive, Geragos suggested, was to make jurors hate his client.

"If you hate him, then maybe what they're asking you to do is just convict him. Don't bother with the five months of evidence. ... Don't bother with the fact that the evidence shows clearly that he didn't do this and had absolutely no motive to do this," Geragos told jurors.

Prosecutors claim Peterson killed his wife on Dec. 23 or 24, 2002, then dumped her waterlogged body into San Francisco Bay. Defense lawyers claim someone else abducted and killed Laci.

Peterson is charged with two counts of murder, in the deaths of his wife and the fetus she carried. A first-degree murder conviction



Scott Peterson, background, and defense attorney Mark Geragos, listen during prosecutors' closing arguments Monday in Peterson's trial in Redwood City, Calif.

could bring the death penalty. Jurors will also be allowed to consider second-degree murder, which does not require evidence of premeditation and carries a sentence of 15 years to life in prison.

In their closing Monday, prosecutors made their case for premeditation, contending each piece of evidence is like a piece of a puzzle that convicts the former fertilizer salesman.

"He wants to live the rich, successful, free-wheeling bachelor life. He can't do that when he's paying child support, alimony and everything else," prosecutor Rick Distato told jurors.

"He didn't want to be tied to this kid the rest of his life. He didn't want to be tied to Laci for the rest of his life. So he killed her," Distato told jurors.

Court allows new trial

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court allowed a new trial to proceed Monday for a black man sentenced to death 18 years ago in a case in which prosecutors improperly restricted opportunities for blacks to serve on his jury.

The court, with comment, declined to hear Philadelphia's appeal in the case of Arnold Holloway, 62, who allegedly murdered a fellow drug dealer.

DNA legislation

WASHINGTON — Rape victims and felons in prison will have greater access to DNA testing under a five-year, \$1 billion program signed into law by President Bush.

The law ensures access to post-conviction DNA tests for those serving prison sentences, including prisoners on death row. It provides \$775 million in grants over the next five years to clear the backlog of some 350,000 untested DNA samples in rape evidence kits.

From The Associated Press

Potential cervical cancer vaccine shows promise

By MARILYN MARCHIONE

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Efforts to develop the world's first vaccine to prevent cervical cancer took a key step forward Monday with test results suggesting that it can provide long-lasting protection.

Four years after getting the vaccine, 94 percent of women were protected from infection with the virus that causes most cervical cancers and none had developed worrisome precancerous conditions, a study showed.

"We're thrilled about these results. The immune responses seem to be really long-lasting," said Dr. Eliav Barr, who leads development of the vaccine for Merck & Co. The company plans to seek Food and Drug Administration approval next year for an expanded version of the vaccine that also could be used to prevent genital warts in both women and men.

The new study was funded by Merck and led by University of Washington researchers who presented results Monday at a meeting of the American Society for Microbiology.

"They showed clear effectiveness," said Dr. Scott Hammer, a Columbia University infec-

tious disease expert who reviewed the work but has no ties to Merck or the study. "This is a very important issue for women's health around the world."

If the vaccine makes it to market, it would be the second developed to prevent cancer. The hepatitis B vaccine has dramatically reduced the number of infections that progress to liver cancer.

Cervical cancer strikes nearly half a million women worldwide each year and kills about half. In the United States, about 15,000 women get it and about 5,000 die.

Virtually all cases are caused by infection with human papilloma virus, or HPV, which is spread through sex. One strain, HPV-16, accounts for about half of all cervical cancers.

A previous study showed that HPV-16 infections were completely prevented in 768 women who had received the Merck vaccine 18 months earlier. None developed precancerous conditions either.

The new study followed 755 of these women for four years after vaccination. HPV-16 infections had taken hold in seven of the 755 women. In a comparison group of 750 women who received dummy shots, infections took hold in 111 and precancers formed in 12.

Even though protection had waned for a small number of women in the study, the vaccine's effectiveness was still very high, said Dr. Douglas Lowy, a National Cancer Institute scientist who invented the vaccine. The government gave rights to develop it to two companies — Merck and GlaxoSmithKline — and Merck's work is a little further along, Lowy said.

"Re-vaccination might be advisable at some point," but it will take more study to know whether that is necessary or would improve effectiveness, he said.

Women in the study were ages 16 to 23 when they received the vaccine, given in three doses over six months.

"Most people think it would be recommended for young adolescents. The idea would be you would immunize people relatively soon before they become sexually active," because the germ is spread through sex, Lowy said.

Meanwhile, Merck is in the final stages of testing an expanded vaccine. Besides HPV-16, it contains strain 18, which causes about 10 percent to 20 percent of cervical cancers, as well as strains that cause genital warts in men and women, and penile and anal cancers in men.

More violence as pressure rises on Allawi

Baghdad, Mosul car bombs kill at least 12; no word on latest hostages taken in Iraq

BY MARIAM FAM
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Car bombs killed at least a dozen people in Baghdad and another major city Tuesday as pressure mounted on interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi to avoid ordering a full-scale U.S. attack on the insurgent stronghold Fallujah.

There was no word on an American and two other foreigners abducted Monday night in Baghdad, although the kidnappers freed two Iraqi guards also captured in the bold attack. Some diplomats speculated the foreigners may have been seized to pressure the Americans against a Fallujah attack.

U.S. officials denied a report broadcast by Arabic satellite television stations that an American soldier was abducted in Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad.

At least eight people died early Tuesday when an explosive-laden car slammed into concrete blast walls and protective barriers surrounding the Education Ministry and exploded in Baghdad's Sunni Muslim district Azamiyah.

Ten others were injured, according to Al-Numan Hospital. Officials at a second hospital, Baghdad Medical City Hospital, reported two more deaths and 19 injured.

In Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad, a car bomb exploded near a military convoy carrying an Iraqi general, killing four civilians and wounding at least seven others, U.S. and Iraqi officials said.

Iraq police said the attack was an assassination attempt on Iraqi



A U.S. soldier guards the site of a car bomb explosion Tuesday near an office of the Iraqi Ministry of Education in Baghdad.

Maj. Gen. Rashid Feleih, commander of a special task force, who escaped injury. Feleih was apparently on his way to a news conference to talk about the role of the task force, according to police and media reports.

The fresh violence occurred as American forces prepare for a major offensive against Fallujah and other Sunni Muslim militant strongholds north and west of Baghdad in hopes of curbing the insurgency to that national elec-

tions can be held by the end of January.

U.S. forces have pounded insurgent positions around Fallujah almost daily, but American officials say the go-ahead for an all-out assault must come from Allawi, the interim prime minister.

However, new pressure mounted Tuesday on Allawi, a Shiite, to forego an assault and to continue negotiating with the hard-line Sunni clerics who run the city,

The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,122 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 858 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department as of Monday. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Monday at 10 a.m. EST.

The British military has reported 70 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 984 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 749 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers as of Friday. The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A Marine was killed Sunday by a bomb in Ramadi, the military said.

■ The identities reported by the military:

Marines killed Saturday in Anbar province, Iraq, all except Courtney assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd

Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base, Hawaii:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Jeremy D. Bow, 20, Lemons, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. John T. Byrd II, 23, Fairview, W.Va.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Travis A. Fox, 25, Covington, S.C.

■ Marine Pfc. John Lukac, 19, Las Vegas

■ Marine Cpl. Christopher J. Lapka, 22, Peoria, Ariz.

■ Marine Pfc. Andrew G. Riedel, 19, Northglenn, Colo.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Michael P. Scarborough, 28, Washington, Ga.

■ Marine Sgt. Kelley L. Courtney, 28, Macon, Ga.; assigned to 3rd Intelligence Battalion, III MEF, Okinawa, Japan.

■ Army Spc. Sean Frederick Akintade, 24, New York, died Thursday in Abd Allah, Iraq, when his unit was attacked with an explosive and small arms fire, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, New York.

■ Army Sgt. Maurice Keith Fortune, 25, Forestville, Md.; died Friday in Ramadi, Iraq, when an explosive detonated near his vehicle; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Camp Hovey, Korea.

■ Marine 1st Lt. Matthew D. Lynch, 25, Jericho, N.Y.; died Sunday in Anbar province, Iraq.

Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

which has become a symbol of Iraqi resistance throughout the Arab world.

Mohammed Bashir al-Faidhi, spokesman of the Association of Muslim Scholars, said Tuesday that his clerical group would use "mosques, the media and professional associations" to proclaim a civil disobedience campaign and a boycott of the January elections.

"In the case of an incursion in Fallujah, there will be a call to boycott elections," al-Faidhi said. "In case of an incursion, more deterrent steps will be taken."

He said that a boycott call by the influential clerical group "will have a great resonance among the people of Iraq."

Such a call by Iraqi Sunnis would probably draw little support among the Shiite majority, believed to compromise about 60 percent of Iraq's nearly 26 million people. The country's leading Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, has been demanding elections for more than a year, and some Shiite preachers have been telling their followers that failure to vote would be sinful.

However, a boycott call could have resonance among Sunnis of central Iraq, who form the core of the insurgency, and in some parts of the country's major religious communities with grave consequences for national

unity. Interim President Ghazi al-Yawer, one of the country's leading Sunnis, has also spoken out against an attack.

"It's not reasonable to call for elections that are supposed to be democratic and yet a peaceful city gets attacked by weapons, missiles, planes and bombs," said Nabil Mohammed, a political science professor at Baghdad University's Center for International Studies.

He said an all-out attack would "elicit a very big response and support from Iraqis."

U.S. officials believe Fallujah is the stronghold of an al-Qaida faction led by Jordanian extremist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, responsible for numerous car-bombings and beheadings of foreigners.

Al-Zarqawi's group claimed in a Web posting Tuesday that it beheaded Japanese backpacker Shoko Koda after Tokyo refused to withdraw troops from Iraq. The claim was accompanied by a gruesome video showing the young Japanese, whose body was found Saturday in Baghdad, being beheaded on an American flag.

Some diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, speculated that al-Zarqawi's group may have been responsible for Monday night's attack on a Saudi company compound in western Baghdad in which an American, a Filipino, a Nigerian and an Iraqi were taken hostage, possibly to add pressure against a Fallujah strike.

HOW WILL YOU SPEND YOUR

Holiday Loan?

Visit one of our banking centers for more information.

CommunityBank

Operated by **Bank of America** Member FDIC

RATES AS LOW AS 7.78% APR*

*APR - Annual Percentage Rate. All rates shown reflect a 25% APR rate reduction for automatic payment from your Community Bank checking or savings account. Other rates and terms may apply and will be determined by credit history and loan application. Rates are effective October 1, 2004, and further rates may be subject to change without notice. Cash is subject to seasonal fluctuations. Example: A 3-year fixed rate \$20,000 unsecured signature loan. Based on a simple interest rate of 7.78%, this loan would have 36 monthly payments of \$617.21 and one final payment of \$617.24 and an overall percentage rate (APR) of 7.78%. This example assumes automatic deduction of the loan payment from a Community Bank checking account. Increase the rate and APR by .25% if you do not use an automatic payment.



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Above: U.S. Marine Gen. James L. Jones, supreme allied commander of NATO's military arm, talks with German officials Sunday during a visit to a provincial reconstruction camp in Kunduz, Afghanistan. Right: Capt. Jose Antonio Ferrari of Spain's 3rd Paratroop Battalion, the "Ortiz de Zarate," said he is proud to have helped the Afghan people hold their Oct. 9 presidential election. Ferrari, who is based in Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan, said, "We are Spanish paratroopers. We are prepared to go anywhere in the world. Otherwise, we wouldn't be soldiers. We wouldn't be paratroopers."



Jones, NATO recruiting for Afghan effort

Successful elections bring optimism for expanded reconstruction

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Buoyed by recent successes, NATO soon will ask European nations to send more troops and equipment to Afghanistan. If enough nations pitch in, the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan could be reduced.

The plan is to ask nations to stake a claim in the country, providing a more stable area a piece at a time, according to U.S. Marine Gen. James L. Jones, NATO's supreme allied commander.

Following the successful Afghan presidential elections and the small victories at many regional outposts, Jones plans to seek more help from the alliance's member nations, as well as others.

Jones hopes to point to people such as Thomas Scheibe, a lieutenant colonel in the German army, who said his unit is making a difference.

"There's a woman I know from Germany who has come here for 10 years as [an aid worker]," Scheibe said. "She told me that Kunduz used to be a dead city. Now it's humming with life."

The Germans operate a Provincial Reconstruction Team, or PRT, in Kunduz. It's one of 19 PRTs in Afghanistan, which range in size from 50 to 500 troops. Seven of those are run by NATO, and the rest by individual countries — the United States means the most, but England, Germany, Spain and other nations also operate some.

The teams help establish good will, as well as law and order. They do it militarily by consolidating weapons and gathering intelligence, and do it civil-affairs-style by repairing roads and providing medical treatment, among other methods.

Country has many needs

NATO plans to install reconstruction teams around the country in four geographic phases. Stage 1 in the north is done; Stage 2 in the west is next up.

Afghanistan, which is slightly smaller than the state of Texas, had become a safe haven for terrorists as well as one of the world's leading producers of illegal narcotics over the past two decades. It's a vast, un-



A Turkish Black Hawk helicopter taxis down the runway Sunday at Kabul International Airport. There are 37 countries in the International Security Assistance Force that is trying to stabilize Afghanistan and enable the new government to take hold.

developed country of mountains and barren landscapes run by territorial warlords.

The PRTs were established to stabilize regions, but peace isn't Afghanistan's only need — as the country is in need of an infrastructure overhaul — so Jones will ask countries for equipment and expertise.

Some nations already have contributed. The Czech Republic has sent a battalion trained to take on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats.

The Netherlands has contributed the 1st Helicopter Detachment, 301st Squadron of the Royal Netherlands Air Force. Its six Apache helicopters, 110 troops and 24 vehicles are based in Kabul, the capital.

The helicopters act as deterrents while supporting troops on the ground.

"Mostly it's just being in the air and scaring away the bad guys," said Lt. Col. Coos Duinhof. He added that the Dutch controllers have yet to fire a shot in the conflict.

"We need more of those types of things," Jones said. "It's not for me to say whether [nations] should contribute a little or a lot. They have to do what they can do."

"But we can always give advice if we're asked."

For example, he said, the country now

needs air traffic controllers and other flight-line specialists to help run Kabul International Airport.

"Obviously, the long-term answer is to train the Afghans to do it themselves," Jones said. "The short-term answer is going to be a combination of military and perhaps contractors, because [it takes] very high skills here to run this airport."

Internationalizing the effort

One month after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the U.S. military invaded Afghanistan to hunt down the prime suspects: Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network.

The U.S. military also took down the aiding-and-abetting Taliban government that had come to power in 1996.

But for the good the U.S. military did, it had somehow become the big, bad wolf to many.

"There was a tendency to associate U.S. military engagements ... as kick-in-doors driven," said Daniel Riggio of NATO's Public Diplomacy Division in Brussels, Belgium. "They were seen as being in staunch pursuit of the bad guy without regard to local cultures and sensitivities."

The increase in international troops on the ground has helped spread the credit for Afghanistan's gains, while also softening the presence of the United States, and the U.S. image has improved dramatically.

American troops are now seen in most of the country as being needed, Riggio said. Even though the United States has, by far, the most foreign troops in Afghanistan, troops from the other 36 nations are highly visible.

"There's no risk as [the U.S. troops] being perceived as foreign occupying forces," Riggio said.

Currently, there are about 18,000 U.S. troops in the country and between 6,500 and 8,000 other NATO forces there.

More elections upcoming

One election is completed: Hamid Karzai is set to be named president, receiving 55 percent of the nationwide vote on Oct. 9.

More than 10 million people registered to vote, including 4 million women, according to the International Security Assistance Force, or ISAF, the Kabul-based security and civil affairs arm of the effort to reconstruct Afghanistan.

Now that there is a president in place, parliamentary elections are being planned to elect local and regional representatives.

When they happen depends, in part, on security.

"We need national contributions for a few PRTs," Jones said of Stage 2 in the west. "There are two U.S. PRTs out there right now."

The current generation of Afghans has lived through coups, mass killings, a Soviet invasion and the oppressive Taliban regime. Now the 28 million Afghans living there have their first-ever elected president and must be prepared for the next phase.

"Once [nations] have the will, we can provide the way very quickly," Jones said. "The important thing is that we have momentum."

"We're not content with just Stage 2," he added. "We want to do the entire plan. So we want to see the momentum and get on with it."

E-mail Charlie Coon at:
ccocon@mail.estripes.odm.mil

Australian's Gitmo trial nears

Australian accused of helping Taliban in Afghanistan

BY PAISLEY DODDS
The Associated Press

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — A U.S. military commission began pretrial motions for an Australian allegedly caught fighting with the Taliban in Afghanistan by denying a defense request for expert witnesses and by beginning debate on whether the charges against him constitute war crimes.

Lawyers for David Hicks want charges against the 29-year-old to be dropped, arguing Monday that his scheduled Jan. 10 trial will be unfair since the commission panel has been reduced from five members to three.

Hicks' lawyers also maintain the allegations against their client do not constitute war crimes and that other unprecedented charges have never been litigated.

Hicks has pleaded innocent to charges of attempted murder, aiding the enemy and conspiracy to attack civilians, commit terrorism and destroy property. He could be sentenced to life imprisonment if found guilty.

His trial is part of the first U.S. military commissions since World War II.

Dealing an early blow to the defense, the presiding officer, Army Col. Peter E. Brownback, denied a request for six witnesses to be called but said witnesses for trials would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The decision sparked a heated exchange between prosecutors, who said witnesses would create a legal sidebar, and the defense, who said the experts' could only



David Hicks, shown in this updated family photo, one of two Australians being held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Hicks is accused of joined Afghanistan's former Taliban regime and aiding the enemy.

help. "Obviously we were disappointed," said Hicks' civilian defense lawyer, Josh Dratel. "For the insurgents, there's a tremendous amount to absorb. That's why we wanted a

number of experts."

Prosecutor Marine Lt. Col. Kurt Brubaker argued the panel should interpret the law.

Whether the charges Hicks faces fall under the laws of war or are charges the commission can legally hear is another area that Hicks' defense team is challenging.

The defense claims Hicks should not be charged with aiding the enemy because the Australian citizen was already considered an enemy when he allegedly joined the Taliban and developed ties to the al-Qaida terror network. His attorneys also maintained that to aid an enemy implies that one has to have allegiance to the country declared an enemy.

"Hicks is an Australian citizen with no allegiance to the United States," said Army Maj. Jeffrey Lippert, another member of Hicks' defense team. "This concept of being an enemy and aiding the enemy has never existed before."

Decisions have yet to be made, but challenges in August to the panel's impartiality resulted in the dismissal of two panel members one alternate, shrinking the panel to three members — only one of whom has law experience.

Defense attorneys said the dismissals would compromise Hicks' trial, making it easier for prosecutors to get a two-thirds majority with two people versus four before.

Hicks, wearing a gray suit, glared at panel members throughout the hearing.

Army establishes hot line to stop insurgents

BY JIM KRANE
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — In its latest effort to throttle the tenacious insurgency plaguing Baghdad, the U.S. Army has set up a telephone hot line where Iraqis can phone in anonymous tips.

In two interviews with Arabic TV networks on Monday, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Hammond assumed the role of a big city American police chief, squinting into the camera and beseeching Iraqis to phone in anything they know about planned attacks.

"When you see this terrible insurgent about to do something, pick up your phone and call me. I'll do something about it," said Hammond, deputy commander of the 1st Cavalry Division. "We can fight this war together. You can help me fight — in secret."

In a series of messages, Hammond lambasted the insurgents for killing women and children. He said Iraqis could put the brakes on the insurgents.

"I understand that you're scared. I'd be scared, too," Hammond said. "But someone in Baghdad sees the insurgent, knows

the insurgent. Tell me what it is you know."

The division has received as many as 30 calls per day since setting up the line two weeks ago. Not all phone callers are helpful. One bold caller last week declared he was a terrorist out to get Americans.

The 1st Cavalry has no arrests or operations to report that stemmed from phone-in tips. But division spokesman Lt. Col. James Hutton said the line was useful for vetting intelligence and generating leads.

"It's giving us information that helps connect the dots," Hammond said.

SEAL: Iraqi detainee beaten in CIA 'romper room'

BY SETH HETTNER
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The CIA interrogated and roughed up Iraqi prisoners in a "romper room" where a handcuffed and hooded terror suspect was kicked, slapped and punched shortly before he died last year at Abu Ghraib prison, a Navy SEAL testified.

Blood was visible on the hood worn by the prisoner, Manadel al-Jamadi, as he was led into the interrogation room at Baghdad International Airport last Monday at a military pretrial hearing for another SEAL accused of abusing Iraqi prisoners.

Testifying under a grant of immunity, the witness, identified only by his rank as a hospital corpsman, said he kicked al-Jamadi several times, slapped him in the back of the head and punched him.

Five or six other CIA personnel in the room laid their hands on the prisoner, he said, but he did not provide details.

Sometime later, Al-Jamadi was found dead in a shower room less than an hour after two CIA personnel brought him into Abu Ghraib as a so-called "ghost detainee," according to Army Maj. Gen. George R. Fay's report on the notorious prison. Such detainees were not listed in the normal roster of military prisoners.

Fay's report said al-Jamadi died of a blot clot in the head likely due to injuries suffered after being detained. The cause of death as blunt force trauma complicated by hampered breathing.

A CIA spokeswoman declined to comment on the hearing, but noted that the agency is conducting its own investigation into the CIA's involvement in prisoner detentions and interrogations in Iraq.

The testimony about the CIA's role came during a hearing for an aviation boatswoman's mate who is accused of punching al-Jamadi and posing in humiliating photos with the prisoner. The boatswoman's mate, a 14-year Navy veteran, allegedly twisted other prisoners' testicles and struck a prisoner in the buttocks with a wooden board.

An Article 32 hearing was held to determine whether the boatswoman's mate should be court-martialed.

The hearing concluded Monday. An investigating officer will recommend what charges, if any, the boatswoman's mate should face.

The accused SEAL, who received the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in Iraq, could get up to 11 years in prison if convicted.

Al-Jamadi, described in an Army report as a suspect in an attack on a Red Cross facility, was captured during a joint special forces-CIA mission.

Female British soldier dies

LONDON — The body of a soldier who died of a gunshot wound was found at a British military base in Basra, making her Britain's first female military fatality since the start of the Iraq war, the government said Monday.

Sgt. Denise Rose, 34, was a member of the Royal Military Police's Special Investigation Branch. Her body was found on Sunday at the Sheraton Hotel in southern Iraq, where most British forces are based.

"The incident is being investigated, but is not thought to have been the result of hostile action," the Ministry of Defense said.

"This is a terrible shock for all her many comrades in the unit. She was doing so well in the army and had a bright future in front of her," said Lt. Col. Robert Silk, a commanding officer.

"Even more importantly, Denise had a multitude of friends, being universally popular, intelligent and ever cheerful. Rose's death brought to 70 the number of British service personnel who have died in the Iraq war since it began last year."

The 69 male soldiers who have died include 31 who fell in action, 33 who died in accidents and five from natural causes.

Rose started working with British forces in 1989 and had taken part in military investigations in Britain and Cyprus. She began work in Iraq on Sept. 27 with the goal of improving security for Iraqis and helping to train an Iraqi police force.

Motorcycle bomber attacks

RAMADI, Iraq — A U.S. military convoy was hit by a motorcycle bomber Tuesday in the central Iraqi city of Ramadi, though it was unclear whether there were any casualties, according to police.

The attack occurred in the morning, according police officer Salam Abdul-Satar. The U.S. military had no immediate comment.

Heavy clashes between Iraqi insurgents and U.S. forces have continued for days here in Ramadi, one of several Sunni Muslim cities used by rebels have used as a base. Ramadi is 70 miles west of Baghdad.

Japanese troops on alert

TOKYO — Japanese troops in southern Iraq are on "high alert" following the firing of a shell into their camp, a top Japanese official said Tuesday.

The shell, believed to have hit a storage container for bottled drinks inside the camp, still has not been found, said Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda.

He said there was still no evidence of an explosion in the camp.

A large blast was heard near the base in Samawah, Iraq, on Sunday night, but the Defense Agency said there were no injuries and nothing unusual at the camp, home to 500 soldiers.

Iraqi diplomats get training

SEOUL, South Korea — Fifteen Iraqi diplomats will start training in South Korea this week as part of Seoul's efforts to improve relations with the Arab country where it has deployed troops, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

The junior Iraqi diplomats, who arrive here on Wednesday, will train for two weeks at the government's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, taking classes on international politics and Korean affairs.

South Korea offered a similar training program for a total of 10 Iraqi diplomats in February and March.

From The Associated Press

STARS AND STRIPES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR/OPINION

THOMAS E. KELSCH, Publisher
THOMAS BIERMANN, General Manager, Europe
LT. COL. CYRIL J. SOCIA, Commander

News and Editorial

DAVID MAZZELLA, Editorial Director
DOUG CLARKSON, Managing Editor
ROB GRIMSLTAF, Associate Editor
JAN ANDERSON, Europe Bureau Chief
SCOTT BURGESS, Middle East Bureau Chief
JOE GROMELAN, Electronic Division Editor
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR
Sharon Olson, News Peter Pollock, Photo Graphics
Brian Bowers, Features Sean Moore, Sports

Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 28480, APO 96211
INTERNATIONAL MAIL: Postfach 1330, 64345 Griesheim,
Germany
Fax: (49) 6155-60146
E-MAIL: News: news@mil.strips.com
Letters: letters@mil.strips.com
CENTRAL OFFICE: 2540 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC
20045-1021, Phone (202) 735-9900 or fax (+1) (202) 735-9900
E-MAIL: (202) 735-9900
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: David Mazzella, 2540 14th St. NW, Suite
350, Washington, DC 20045-1021, Phone (202) 735-9945 or
fax (+1) (202) 761-0945

Letters: letters@mil.strips.com
OMBUDSMAN: Jan Ungren, Send comments to Ombudsman, Stars
and Stripes, 2540 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
20045-1021, Phone (202) 735-9900 or fax (+1) (202) 761-0945
or e-mail: ombudsman@mil.strips.com

How to call us

Editors: DSN 349-8323, fax (+49) 6155-6010237
Letters: DSN 349-8400, fax (+49) 6155-6010400
Sports: DSN 349-8325, fax (+49) 6155-6010225
Advertising: DSN 349-8337, fax (+49) 6155-6010437
Advertising: DSN 349-8337, fax (+49) 6155-6010437

News Bureaus

GERMANY (country code +49)
Bamberg: Rüdiger Emmert, 2790 Eichen, Unit 27355, Box 25341, APO
96209-2015, Phone (49) 9361-9000 or fax (+49) 9361-9000
489-8007 or fax (+49) 9361-9000-8007
e-mail: emmert@mil.strips.com
Bamberg: Terry Boyd, 2790 Eichen, Unit 27355, Box 25341, APO
96209-2015, Phone (49) 9361-9000 or fax (+49) 9361-9000
489-8007 or fax (+49) 9361-9000-8007
e-mail: tboyd@mil.strips.com
Darmstadt: Kevin Daugherty, Unit 28480, APO 96211, tel. DSN
349-8400 or fax (+1) 6155-6010400
e-mail: kdaugherty@mil.strips.com
Ward Sanderson, Unit
28480, APO 96211, tel. DSN 349-8325 or fax (+1) 6155-6010400
e-mail: sanderson@mil.strips.com
Jasica
Ling, Unit 28480, APO 96211, tel. DSN 349-8320 or fax (+1) 6155-6010400
e-mail: ling@mil.strips.com
Liaison: Lisa Horn, Unit 28480, APO 96211, tel. DSN 349-8327 or
fax (+1) 6155-6010400
e-mail: horn@mil.strips.com

Headquarters: 2540 14th Street NW, Room 111, Newport 114,
69115 Heidelberg, tel. DSN 370-0710 or fax (+49) 6221-000554
fax (+49) 6221-23421, e-mail: news@mil.strips.com
Kaiserlautern: Stephanie Martin, 69115 Heidelberg, tel. DSN 370-0710
fax (+49) 6221-23421, e-mail: martin@mil.strips.com
Stuttgart: Claudia Cohn, 69115 Heidelberg, tel. DSN 370-0710
fax (+49) 6221-23421, e-mail: cohn@mil.strips.com
Stuttgart: Claudia Cohn, 69115 Heidelberg, tel. DSN 370-0710
fax (+49) 6221-23421, e-mail: cohn@mil.strips.com

Headquarters: 2540 14th Street NW, Room 111, Newport 114,
69115 Heidelberg, tel. DSN 370-0710 or fax (+49) 6221-000554
fax (+49) 6221-23421, e-mail: news@mil.strips.com

Kaiserlautern: Stephanie Martin, 69115 Heidelberg, tel. DSN 370-0710
fax (+49) 6221-23421, e-mail: martin@mil.strips.com
Stuttgart: Claudia Cohn, 69115 Heidelberg, tel. DSN 370-0710
fax (+49) 6221-23421, e-mail: cohn@mil.strips.com
Stuttgart: Claudia Cohn, 69115 Heidelberg, tel. DSN 370-0710
fax (+49) 6221-23421, e-mail: cohn@mil.strips.com

Arvico/Venice: Kent Harris, tel. DSN (313) 632-7652 or fax (39) 0434-86-7652, second line DSN (313) 632-4222 or fax (39) 0434-86-4222
e-mail: harris@mil.strips.com
Naples: James Chudy, RSM 810, Box 56, FPO 09613, tel. DSN 626-2157 or fax (+39) 081-598-5150, fax DSN 626-2150 or fax (+39) 081-598-5150
e-mail: chudy@mil.strips.com

SPAIN

Rota: Scott Schowenar, PSC 811, Box 1, FPO 09645, tel. DSN 727-1009 or fax (+34) 0526-82-1009, fax DSN 727-1034 or fax (+34) 0526-82-1004
e-mail: schowenar@mil.strips.com

RUSSIA

Tula: Stars and Stripes, Operation Joint Forge, APO 09789, tel. 00381-61-13574, fax: 00381-61-13574
e-mail: borkowski@mil.strips.com

UNITED KINGDOM

RAF Mildenhall: James Chudy, RSM 810, Box 56, FPO 09613, tel. DSN 626-2157 or fax (+39) 081-598-5150, fax DSN 626-2150 or fax (+39) 081-598-5150
e-mail: chudy@mil.strips.com

WASHINGTON D.C.

Bureau editor: Patrick Ockler, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Wash-
ington DC 20045-1021, tel. (+1) 202-735-9900
e-mail: dckler@mil.strips.com
Sandra Kentz and Lisa Burgess, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Wash-
ington DC 20045-1021, tel. (+1) 202-735-9900 or fax (+1) 202-761-0945
e-mail: kentz@mil.strips.com, burgess@mil.strips.com

Printed in Italy by Edizione Telestampo

Stars and Stripes (ISSN 0757-2722) is published daily (except Christmas and New Year's) for 10 cents daily and 51 Sunday by Stars and Stripes central office, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1021. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, DC. Postmaster: Send address changes to Stars and Stripes, Unit 28480, APO 96211.

Copyright © 2004 by Stars and Stripes, Inc.

This newspaper is authorized for publication by the Department of Defense for the official views of the Military Services overseas. However, the content of the Stars and Stripes newspaper and its content are not to be construed as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, including the Department of Defense or the U.S. Government. As a DOD newspaper, the Stars and Stripes will be distributed through official channels and use appropriate forms for distribution to remote and isolated locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or the Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Product services advertised in this publication shall not be held liable for purchases, use, or damages without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other element factor of the purchase, use, or other.

STARS AND STRIPES WEB SITE: WWW.STRIPES.COM

CIB not for him?

I have read Army Regulation 600-8-22 in regard to the Combat Infantryman Badge. Nowhere on my DD Form 214 does it say military occupational specialty 11B or any of 11 series. I'm a combat engineer on paper.

I am attached to the 169th Infantry, not as a sapper, but as a 240B gunner, in you guessed it, an infantry squad.

So, am I good enough to fill this slot as an infantryman, to train with these guys for five months, and ride into combat with them, but not to wear a CIB? If you, Humvee deserves it, but his gunner doesn't, I'm not going to be happy.

Am I good enough to fill this slot as an infantryman, to be called infantry during the parade and to fill the roster, but then tossed out once the dust settles and told I'm not infantry, that I can't wear it? Three cheers for camaraderie.

I just think it's a tad messed up that I will be the only one on our four-man staff that isn't infantry enough to get the CIB. I guess the five months at Fort Hood, Texas, and National Training Center drilling over and over just don't count. At all I'll get a sergeant's patch—all the distinction a mere engineer deserves.

Sp. Chris Morehouse

Iraq

Many perform infantry duties

I agree that the Combat Infantryman Badge should be awarded to infantry-

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorial and columnists that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

Send your letters to:

U.S. Mail: Stars and Stripes
Unit 28480
APO AE 09211
International mail: Stars and Stripes
Postfach 1330
64345 Griesheim

Via fax: (Country code +49) 6155-601395;
DSN 349-8395

E-mail: letters@mil.strips.com

men only. Just like the black beret, not all changes are for the better.

Infantry soldiers are not the only ones performing in a strictly infantry role. Let me tell you what about the troopers from 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. They are on patrol for 12-hour shifts, 24 hours a day on what the State Department ranks as the second most dangerous route in Iraq and its surrounding neighborhoods. They do get to experience the joy of riding in a Bradley fighting vehicle in 120-degree heat.

They also conduct dismounted patrols. They man checkpoints, execute raids,

cordon and searches, and escort convoys—all of the things one previous letter writer mentioned as his criteria for separating infantrymen from the rest of the Army ("Badge reserved for warriors," Oct. 29).

My soldiers are engaged with rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire almost daily. The number of improvised explosive devices my battalions has encountered is well into the hundreds. To cap it all off, they have dealt firsthand with vehicle-based IEDs.

The results of these noninfantry soldiers' work is three killed in action and 64 wounded in my battalion alone.

My noninfantry battalion isn't unique. The 91st Engineer Battalion (Combat Support) is busy patrolling one of Baghdad's worst neighborhoods and battalion members have also performed all of the above listed missions. Troops from the 2-12 Cav have been fighting almost nonstop for the past year. They are not eligible (for the CIB) because they are considered tankers. Bottom line is all maneuver task forces, regardless of branch, are performing infantry missions.

I have not heard one of my soldiers complain about not being eligible for a CIB. They have something more important. The respect of their fellow troopers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team "Blackjack." Go ahead and proudly wear your CIB because you have earned it. They just don't forget that you aren't the only combat soldiers in Iraq.

Sgt. Maj. James N. Ross

Camp Blackjack, Iraq

Avoiding breaches for flu vaccines

BY DAVID R. HENDERSON

A recent New York Times article on the shortage of vaccines stated that "the heart of the problem," experts say, may be in the way one person or agency is in charge of making sure the United States has an adequate vaccine supply." In fact, the heart of the problem is too much centralized government control.

No one person or agency is in charge of making sure the United States has an adequate supply of bread. Do you line up for hours for bread?

No, one is in charge of making sure we have an adequate supply of VCRs, TVs or computers, yet anyone willing to pay the price can get one easily.

The reason markets work so well is precisely that no one is in charge. Instead, thousands of producers and millions of customers make decisions that mesh. If the price of bread is too low, for example, so that not everyone who wants bread at that price can get it, then producers and retail-

ers raise the price of bread and producers make more bread at the higher price.

Vaccines are special. It's true that flu vaccine not used this year must be thrown out. But bread not used this week must be thrown out, and there's no shortage of bread.

Indeed, the countries in the world that have done the worst are those in which one person or agency is in charge. In the Soviet Union, one agency was in charge of making sure people had an adequate supply of bread.

The result was that bread lines were common. And less-er attempts at central planning, such as government-set prices, have also caused shortages.

President Nixon's price controls on gasoline in 1973 and 1974, and Carter's in 1979, for example, caused long lines for gasoline.

Similarly, price controls threatened the supply of vaccines. In 1993 Congress passed former first lady Hillary Clinton's Vaccines for Children program, under which the government now purchases

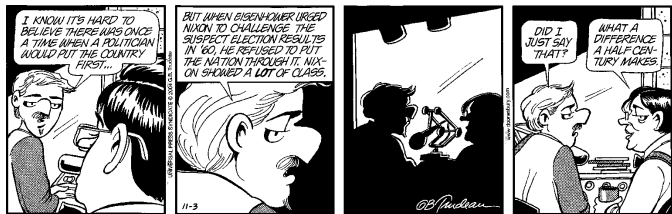
more than half the national supply of children's vaccines at a forced 50 percent discount and then distributes it to doctors who administer it to the poor and uninsured—despite a General Accounting Office report at the time stating that "vaccines are already free" for the truly needy. One result of price-control programs and liability laws has been that the number of vaccine producers has fallen in 30 years from 25 down to five. For some vaccines, there is only one producer.

Tommy Thompson, secretary of health and human services, has urged state attorneys general to go after those who they think are price gouging vaccines. "Too high." The vaccine business is already a high-risk one, due to a limited product shelf life, uncertain demand and lawsuits. Do threats of price controls make being in the vaccine business more attractive?

The solution to our vaccine problems is not to put one agency in charge but, instead, to reduce the role of government so that the vaccine market acts more like the U.S. bread market and less like the Soviet one.

David R. Henderson is a research fellow at the Hoover Institution, and an economics professor at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



OPINION

The momentum the machine reverses direction

BY MICHAEL KINSLEY

Los Angeles Times

There's a poignant moment for the American political conversation around dinner time on Election Day. The polls are closing, but the results aren't yet in. Or, more likely, everybody you see on TV already knows the likely result thanks to exit polls, which — in a nutty exercise of misplaced high-mindedness — they don't share with the public.

In any event, for politicians and political journalists, there are about 10 seconds when there is truly nothing to say.

It's like the moment of stillness at the top of an amusement park ride, before you plunge back into the cacophony. And the cause is similar too: The machine is reversing direction.

Before the election, the conversation is all about small things. Political consultants and opposition researchers dredge up or invent some little factoid from the other guy's past, or they package a few quotes and a few votes into an unflattering assessment of an opponent's character, and politicians build a campaign around it. They may even sincerely believe it.

Political reporters and commentators get sucked in. They may deplore the disproportionate discussion of matters like whether John Kerry threw away his medals or his ribbons, but they can't simply ignore such issues if the candidates or their surrogates choose to focus on them. And sometimes the press itself takes a trivial issue and runs with it, such as the sexual preference of Dick Cheney's daughter Mary.

The voters, for that matter, may deplore the misplaced emphasis on the above-the-line "real issues," but the pros only foist this stuff on the citizenry because, apparently, it works.

As Election Day approached, the campaign became increasingly about itself, like the old "Seinfeld" show. The charges and countercharges focused on the charges and countercharges.

How can you trust someone who would call me a liar for what I said about him? A candidate's offhand remark or offbeat facial expression can sustain the cable TV news channels for a couple of news cycles.

Among the commentariat, prestige attaches to obscurity. Dentists' surprising indifference to tort reform. A particular county whose voters have been in the majority every election except seven since 1836. The key — and overlooked! — campaign role of the first lady's manicurist.

On Election Day itself, the commentators might as well be slicing open a goat or consulting the oracle at Delphi. Bush will win if it rains in Ohio. Long lines at polling places are good news for Kerry. If your cat coughs up a fur ball while watching Fox News, that means the election will be thrown into the House of Representatives.

Then 10 seconds of silence, and the chatter resumes. The votes are in, the results are known, a winner has been declared. (Or so we hope.) But now the premise of the conversation is completely different. Smallness is out; largeness is all.

The candidate who has spent most of the last six months urging you to vote for him because his opponent wears a brown belt with black shoes now declares that his victory represents the death knell for liberalism in all its manifestations.

Political consultants who have pocketed millions in fees for growing hydroponic issues in their Washington, D.C., laboratories now dismiss all that as "static" through which the American people have heard and responded to a clear call for war or for peace or for national health insurance right now.



For the pundits, this is the moment to bring out their Gibbon, or their Tocqueville. For the cable news network bookers, this is a moment to try to find this guy Gibbon everybody is talking about (Tocqueville sounds like he might have a foreign accent), a time to discover that he has been dead for 200 years, and a time to settle for Douglas Brinkley instead.

Details are out, generalities are in. Columnists in a mood to show off no longer assert that the Nebraska Republican primary holds the key to everything. Instead, they assert that the election's meaning cannot be grasped until it is understood that the vote was, in its essence, a referendum on whether life has any meaning and that the conclusion was a ringing "perhaps."

The eagerness to generalize about the meaning of the election is especially peculiar since everyone involved was still busy the weekend before the election predicting that the vote will be terribly close.

The 2000 election was the *reductio ad absurdum* of this tendency. The ultimate victor actually got fewer votes than the guy he beat. But that didn't stop the victor from claiming a mandate for his entire agenda, and the pundits from brooding about the continuing historical decline of the loser's ideology.

After a year or more of this election campaign, you may feel as if you're drowning in the triviality of it all. Just hold on, and you'll be swept up in history.

Then you'll really be sorry.

Michael Kinsley is the Times' editorial and opinion editor.

Terror acts united America, but we've lost our way

As I left this global symbol of America and its promise — ironically against a backdrop of overcast skies and terrestrial political storms — I wondered about the fate of the nation after a brutal election season.

John C. Bersia

And I thought long and hard about a question that was raised more than one discussion: Can we truly hope to succeed in our war against the terrorists who challenge us, united in their convictions and sense of purpose, when we differ, divided and distrustful of one another? That question occupies a key position among the most important concerns in the long, difficult battle with terrorism that lies ahead.

Hard-core global terrorists, such as the al-Qaida network, who total perhaps 150,000 and who may draw loose support from several million others, barely register as a percentage of the world's population. And, of course, they do not represent a monolith of thought and behavior.

But what they lack in numbers, they make up for in zeal, creativity and persistence. The United States would stand a better chance of beating back the terrorists if it had held on to the unity that visited the nation ever so briefly after Sept. 11, 2001.

For a moment, Americans were as unified in their convictions and sense of purpose as the terrorists. And those misce-

ants — from the leaders down to the rank-and-file members — saw the collective resolve very dramatically in the United States' launching of an overdue war against terrorism.

In Afghanistan, where Washington and its allies unleashed the first sweeping counterterror attack, the terrorists and their sponsors lost their balance, disrupted by a level of ferocity and focus that they had failed to anticipate.

But U.S. unity quickly gave way to the more familiar partisan finger-pointing and bashing, even to the point that some critics reached the stupefying conclusion that the

terrorist threat shaped up as little more than a nuisance, that a war footing for the United States amounted to an overreaction.

Political campaigns this year have carried the ugliness and nastiness into other topics and to dizzying heights. America's house appears more deeply divided than at any time in recent memory, including the Vietnam War period.

I cannot accept, however, that Americans' core values, which range far and wide across the populace, have taken such divergent paths. My impression is that Americans, as in many cultures around the world, tend more toward moderation than to the extreme perspectives that appear to have hijacked both the Democratic Party

and the Republican Party.

Americans often express surprise about the largely silent majority in other countries and cultures where extremists seize attention and influence. What about here? My guess is that if the moderates among Democrats and Republicans, who outnumber more than they differ, took an active role — perhaps by joining forces to create their own political party — they would command a powerful majority.

But that issue belongs to the future. The main challenge after Tuesday — whether George W. Bush or John Kerry wins the popular and Electoral College vote — is to restore America's lost unity before al-Qaida's next attack.

John C. Bersia is an Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel columnist.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



©2004 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

TINSLEY 11/3

IN THE WORLD

Bin Laden: Al-Qaida bleeding U.S. economy

BY DONNA BRYSON
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — In rhetoric similar to recent U.S. campaign headlines, Osama bin Laden accused President Bush of going to war for Iraq's oil, and said the American people would be the losers.

Bin Laden, whose al-Qaida network carried out the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, proved he's kept a close eye on U.S. politics as he detailed al-Qaida's strategy of bleeding America bankrupt, even as Americans weighed their presidential votes largely on the issues of terror and the economy.

He provided a financial analysis of al-Qaida's destruction in his latest 18-minute video, a full transcript of which was posted Monday on the Internet.

According to bin Laden's math, each \$1 spent on strikes has cost

the United States \$1 million in economic fallout and military spending, including emergency funding for Iraq and Afghanistan.

"As for the size of the economic deficit, it has reached record astronomical numbers," bin Laden said, estimating the deficit at more than \$1 trillion. In reality, spending in the war against terror and other factors have resulted in an expected \$377 billion shortfall for 2003 — the highest deficit since World War II when inflation is factored out. The total U.S. national debt is near \$7.4 trillion.

Bin Laden credited the holy warriors he fought with against the Soviets in Afghanistan two decades ago with having "bled Russia for 10 years, until it went bankrupt and was forced to withdraw in defeat."

"So we are continuing this poli-



In a full transcript of Osama bin Laden's recent video broadcast made available Monday, bin Laden says each \$1 al-Qaida spent on strikes has cost the United States \$1 million in economic fallout.

cy in bleeding America to the point of bankruptcy," bin Laden said in the tape that appeared near the end of a U.S. campaign

that has focused on the war on terror as well as the founding U.S. economy.

Bin Laden claimed al-Qaida

was winning its war with the United States, and that U.S. defense contractors linked to Bush "like Halliburton and its kind" were also benefiting, while the losers were "the American people and their economy."

Evan F. Kohlmann, a U.S.-based counterterrorism researcher, said it was as if bin Laden were following the news from America, perhaps on satellite TV, and drawing shrewd assumptions about what concerns Americans.

"He is trying to create doubts in America's mind that this war is worth the cost," Kohlmann said.

Bin Laden's latest statement was a selective reading of history. Internal problems and U.S. help, not just the Arab "holy wars," contributed to the collapse of the Soviet experiment in Afghanistan. The U.S. economy was experiencing trouble before Sept. 11.



Forensic scientists work around the scene of the slaying of Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh, body at left, on Tuesday in Amsterdam. Van Gogh had received death threats after making a movie criticizing the treatment of women under Islam. A 26-year-old man with Dutch-Moroccan nationality was arrested.

Dutch filmmaker who criticized Islam slain in Amsterdam; suspect arrested

BY TOBY STERLING
The Associated Press

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — A filmmaker who is a relative of the painter Vincent van Gogh was slain in an Amsterdam street Tuesday after receiving death threats over a movie he made criticizing the treatment of women under Islam.

A suspect, a 26-year-old man with dual Dutch-Moroccan nationality, was arrested after a shoot-out with officers that left him wounded, police said.

Filmmaker Theo van Gogh had been threatened after the August airing of the movie "Submission,"

which he made with a right-wing Dutch politician who had renounced the Islamic faith of her birth.

In a recent radio interview, the 47-year-old Van Gogh — who is the great-grandson of the brother of Vincent van Gogh, who was also named Theo — dismissed the threats and called the movie "the best protection I could



Van Gogh

have. It's not something I worry about."

Police said Van Gogh's killer shot and stabbed his victim and left a note on his body. They declined to comment on reports that Van Gogh's neck was slashed.

The attacker fled to the nearby East Park, and was arrested after exchanging gunfire with police, spokesman Eric Vermeulen said. Both the suspect and a policeman suffered minor injuries.

"Submission" told the fictional story of a Muslim woman forced into a violent marriage, raped by a relative and brutally punished for adultery.

BY ALI DARAGHMEH
The Associated Press

NABLUS, West Bank — Israeli troops on Tuesday destroyed the homes of a teen suicide bomber and two men who had dispatched him to a crowded Tel Aviv outdoor market where he killed three Israelis and wounded 32.

The relatively muted response came after Israel pledged to show restraint in the wake of Yasser Arafat's illness.

The usual signs of an imminent Israeli military counterstrike were absent this time — the hurried high-level security meetings and troop movements — and it appeared that Israel would not hit back as it has in the past.

Troops razed the home of the bomber, 16-year-old Eli Amir Alfari, and damaged four neighboring houses in the crowded Askar refugee camp near Nablus, witnesses said.

Alfari's family of 12 had already removed belongings, knowing that Israel routinely destroys the homes of those involved in attacks against Israelis as a deterrent.

The army also destroyed the homes of two senior members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The military said they dispatched the bomber. The radical PLO faction claimed responsibility for Monday's blast.

The bomber was only 16 years old, one of the youngest Palestinian suicide bombers, and his parents lashed out at the militants who recruited him.

"It's immoral to send someone

and did not attend Arab summits. He had a kidney transplant in August 2000.

His eldest son, Sheikh Charaf bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has been their apparent since 1969, when his father named him crown prince of Abu Dhabi, the capital and rich-

ness of the seven emirates.

Israel destroys home of teenage bomber

Arafat's health

PARIS — Conflicting reports emerged Tuesday about the seriousness of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's illness, as a fifth day of medical tests got under way at a French military hospital that specializes in blood disorders.

One source, who said he had been briefed on Arafat's status said his condition was "fatal" — but he gave no further details and the claim could not be confirmed.

A leading Israeli newspaper, meanwhile, cited Western intelligence sources described as credible as saying Arafat's life was in "no immediate danger" and that he was suffering from a very serious infection.

The confusion stems in large part from a refusal by the French medical team at Percy Military Teaching Hospital to comment on Arafat's condition.

From The Associated Press

so young," said Samir Abdullah, 45, Alfari's mother. "They should have sent an adult who understands the meaning of his deeds."

Monday's bombing was the 117th suicide bombing since the outbreak of Israeli-Palestinian fighting in 2000 and was the first since Arafat left for France last week. In all, 494 Israelis have been killed in the attacks.

Arafat condemned the bombing from his hospital outside Paris, where Israeli leaders in the West Bank joined in

The rulers of the seven emirates must choose the next president and are expected to pick Sheikh Khalifa, though it was not clear when a decision would be made.

From The Associated Press

UAE president dead at 86

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The president of the United Arab Emirates, who helped found a federation from seven backwater Persian Gulf states and built it

into a high-tech crossroads of gleaming skyscrapers, has died. He was 86.

Sheik Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan — the absolute ruler of the country, the world's ninth largest oil producer, for more than 30 years — had been ailing for several years

From The Associated Press

AF develops new version of test uniform

By LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Air Force's first test version of its new field uniform was not a hit with the force, so the service has developed a new version that is a little less "distinctive," according to Senior Master Sgt. Jacqueline Dean, chief of the Air Force Uniform Board.

The new test uniform uses almost the same subdued gray, tan and green the Army uses in its new battle dress uniforms.

While the Army and Marines are using a fully digitized computer-generated pattern on its fabric, the Air Force is using a computerized version of the tiger-stripe pattern of the first prototype.

The original prototype was introduced after Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper decided last year that airmen needed something "distinctive" that would meet the needs of his service. It was a design that was a direct nod to the tiger-stripe jungle uniforms worn by U.S. troops in Vietnam.

Jumper wanted something other than the olive drab or desert-tan BDUs the Air Force now shares with the Army (except for flight crews and pilots, who wear green jumpsuits).

The colors of the prototype uniform included blue, green and tan. There was even a tiny, repeated "U.S. Air Force" motif embedded in the pattern.

The results of six months of tests and surveys are still not completely tallied, but service officials released one statistic Tuesday: 91 percent of wear-testers "loved being in a distinctive uniform," Dean said.

However, "it was a little too distinctive," she said.

The prototype was worn by a total of 700 airmen at seven bases for six months, starting this spring.

Officials also opened a Web site early this summer, asking for comment from active, reserve, and Air National Guard airmen.

A total of 100,000 airmen registered their comments, along with 25,000 additional airmen clothing whom officials polled in order to take a "more scientific sampling" of opinions, Dean said.

Along with the fabric's color, the biggest negative reaction to the prototype was the lack of camouflage properties in the pattern, she said.

The Air Force's answer to that issue was that "97 percent of the Air Force does not require a camouflage uniform," Air Force spokeswoman Jennifer Stephens said back in April.

"These [prototype] uniforms were never supposed to be worn on deployment," Dean said Tuesday. "They were for garrison use."

So if the Air Force had adopted the original pattern, the plan was for the 3 percent of the force that needs camouflage — mainly special operators — to be given uniforms "appropriate for the environments they work in," Stephens had said.

And deployed airmen, she said, would have returned to wearing the Army's DCUs if they were deployed, Dean said Tuesday.

With the new, subdued pattern, however, that plan has changed.



LISA BURGESS/Stars and Stripes

The new Air Force test uniform, with a subdued digital tiger-stripe pattern, is on the left. The originally test colors, right, proved to be "too distinctive" for airmen, officials said.

In fact, the new test audience for the uniform is not regular airmen, but special operators, who are the only group that will wear-test the second prototype, to check for its camouflage qualities, Stephens said Tuesday.

The new prototypes are now being manufactured. The number of testers and the length of the test has not been determined, Stephens said. However, Jumper expects to decide on whether or not to adopt the uniform in the beginning of 2005, she said.

The color of the fabric is the only major change to the second version of the new uniform, except for the cap: the service is returning to the familiar BDU cap because testers did not like the initial prototype, which was modeled after the Marine Corps' eight-point cap. The Air Force is keeping the same 50 percent cotton, 50 percent nylon wash-and-wear fabric blend as the first prototype, because "the biggest [property] the testers liked was the permanent-press" quality, Dean said.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.osd.mil

Deployment was always slated for 12 months, 1st ID says

By RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

The 1st Infantry Division always expected to stay in Iraq until February, according to 1st ID officials, despite a Department of Defense news release that said the division was to return after only 10 months.

The release, posted on the Pentagon's Web site on Saturday, stated that soldiers from 1st ID and the 1st Cavalry Division, out of Fort Hood, Texas, were to be deployed for 10 months, but their deployments were being adjusted to 12 months to help provide security for upcoming Iraqi elections.

But the Germany-based 1st ID never had 10-month orders, according to Capt. Bill Coppennoll, a 1st Infantry Division spokesman in Tikrit, Iraq.

"We have expected a 12-month deployment all along," Coppennoll said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

Recent news articles about the "two-month adjustment" have caused a bit of a stir, Coppennoll said.

"I can see how they would lead someone (in the 1st Infantry Division) to believe that they are having to stay in Iraq longer," he said.

Coppennoll said the 1st ID is seeking clarification on the DOD release, but the division had always planned to be gone for 12 months.

"When the division deployed,



STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

First Infantry Division soldiers at Camp Udairi, Kuwait, hunker down against a sandstorm in February. According to 1st ID officials, the 1st ID always expected to stay in Iraq until February despite last week's Department of Defense news release that said the division was to return two months earlier.

we all planned on a 12-month deployment," he said. "We expected a 12-month rotation. That hasn't changed."

However, there have been rumors spreading among the soldiers and filtering back to their spouses that the division would leave Iraq as early as December.

"We've had some spouses over the past few months asking if the soldiers are coming home early,

but it's been onesies and twosies," said Staff Sgt. Gregory Fisher, rear detachment commander for Battery B, 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery Regiment, in Bamberg, Germany. "General (B.B.) Bell came to Bamberg to tell spouses that the 1st ID can't come back early and won't come back early."

Fisher said he received several calls Tuesday from family mem-

bers who had read the news reports on the "extension."

"We have always told them one year," Fisher said. "Every set of orders that was handed out before the unit deployed said 365 days — one year."

Two brigades that will be part of Task Force Liberty will arrive in Iraq as early as December for relief in place operations with Task Force Danger's 30th Bri-

"We have always told them one year. Every set of orders that was handed out before the unit deployed said 365 days — one year."

Staff Sgt. Gregory Fisher
Rear detachment commander for Battery B, 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery Regiment

gade Combat Team and a brigade from the 25th Infantry Division.

Replacements for the Germany-based brigades and the task force's command element will deploy later, Coppennoll said. Task Force Liberty will be led by the 42nd Infantry Division headquarters from the New York Army National Guard.

The relief in place and transfer of authority can take months, he said.

"This isn't something you do in a day or a week," Coppennoll said. "It's a long, deliberate, staggered process. We can't just unplug and leave."

"We want to make sure that we set the (42nd) up for success. We want something that we will finish until the last day."

E-mail Rick Emert at: emert@mail.estrates.osd.mil

Toddler rescued

AL FRISCO CITY — Rescue workers pulled a 22-month-old boy to safety after he was trapped for 13 hours in an abandoned well.

Authorities said the boy, Jeremie McMillan, was playing in a vacant lot with other children when he fell into the 14-foot well shortly after 4 p.m. Police used earth-moving equipment to dig a separate shaft, and workers were able to rescue the child about 5:15 a.m.

Mobile television station WKRG reported the youngster had scratches and bruises, according to paramedics and a doctor on the scene. He was taken to the University of South Alabama Medical Center in Mobile for observation.

Plan for drought

AZ GRAND CANYON — The Bush administration says states that use the Colorado River need to develop a drought plan for 2002.

Assistant Interior Secretary Bennett Riley says even the best scientists can't say when the West's dry spell will end.

Therefore, he says, the states that use the Colorado River must be prepared for a range of scenarios in the coming years.

He says they can't rely on any set of computer predictions, that even the best "modelers didn't predict the last five years of drought."

Pardon for witches

MA SALEM — Pardon those who were persecuted during the witch hysteria in this city in the 17th century "sounds like a good idea," the mayor said.

Stanley Usovich was intrigued by a Scottish township's plan to pardon 81 people who were executed for witchcraft there, The Salem News reported.

The township of Prestonsburg will pardon people — and their cats — who were executed during a wave of hysteria and religious ferment in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The pardons were to be granted under ancient feudal powers due to be abolished within weeks.

During Salem's witch scare in 1692, 19 people were hanged and one was pressed with heavy stones for allegedly practicing witchcraft.

By the end of that year, 200 people were jailed under charges of witchcraft.

In 1957, many of the accused Salem witches were exonerated by the Massachusetts Legislature.

Usovich said one of the judges apologized for his role in the trials about eight years after they concluded, but he wasn't sure there had ever been an official declaration by the city.

Tower demolition

ME SCARBOROUGH — Demolition of a military observation tower built on Prouts Neck during World War II has begun despite this town's efforts to accommodate a new property owner who wanted to build a house.

The Scarborough Historical Society and Maine Historic Preservation Commission wanted the tower preserved, but the land owner has the legal right to tear it down, said town manager



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Ron Owens.

Last fall, Charles Parkhurst of Greenwich, Conn., bought the land, including the tower and a seven-bedroom house, for \$3 million, according to land records.

The town put the demolition permit for the tower on hold when questions about the tower's historical significance arose. An adjacent house was razed last month.

Built in 1944, the boxy, steel-reinforced tower is one of dozens of military structures sprinkled along Maine's coast during the war as lookouts could watch for German vessels. It has sat unused for decades in a gated community.

Parkhurst, a financial analyst, said he considered putting the tower to some sort of use, possibly building a house around it. But he said the deed forbids construction on the tower's lot, which is larger than the tower's footprint.

Library flooded

HI HONOLULU — Water as high as eight feet rushed through the ground floor of the University of Hawaii's main research library during heavy rains, destroying irreplaceable documents and books, toppling doors and walls, tossing furniture and leaving inches of mud everywhere Sunday.

Several people were attending a small class meeting on the ground floor of Hamilton Library on Saturday night when the flash flood started around 9 p.m. and they had to knock out a window to escape, said



Hanging in there

Third-graders raise their hands to answer questions during class at Oasis Elementary School in Oasis, Calif. More than 90 percent of the school's 650 students are Hispanic and come from families surviving on less than \$10,000 a year.

university librarian Diane Perushke. No one was hurt, she said.

University officials canceled classes at the Manoa campus as the staff copes with the mess and debris left by flooding. There are no scheduled classes because of the Election Day holiday, but Interim President David McClain said faculty and staff are being asked to come to work.

Cop shoots partygoer

VA DALE CITY — A man who authorities say was the leader of a group that attacked two officers at a party was shot by police. Neighbors called police complaining of loud music at a house party. Two officers, who went to the home just before midnight, were attacked by a group of men at the party, Prince William County police said.

The group allegedly pinned the officer in a corner of the front porch, hit and started choking him. The unidentified officer fired a round that hit and killed Jose Leonides-Marquez, 31, of Silver Spring, Md.

The second officer, who also was being attacked, radioed for backup. Police said when other officers arrived, the men threw landscaping stones at them.

Charged with felony assault and battery on a police officer were Carlos Ernesto Marquez, 36, of Dale City; Freddy Armando Guerra, 41, of Hyattsville, Md.; Jorge H. Hernandez, 39, of no fixed address, and Francisco Miguel Perez, 27, of Silver Spring, Md.

The two officers have been placed on routine administrative leave during an investigation.

Bad place to nap

NJ GLEN RIDGE — A man who broke into a woman's house helped himself to some food and wine, then settled in for a nap — until police arrested him.

The woman called police to report something odd at her home.

The first officers to arrive saw an open kitchen window, with the curtain on the grass outside. They also found a black leather jacket, a plaid flannel shirt, a red baseball cap, and three unopened bottles of wine.

The officers searched the house, finally finding the man asleep on the basement floor holding a bowl of food the woman said was from her refrigerator, police Chief John Magnier said. The suspect was handcuffed and arrested.

O'Hare flight capacity

IL CHICAGO — A federal study lowered the number of flights that O'Hare International Airport can handle without creating gridlock. At the same time, 37 daily flights were cut as a deal with the airlines went into effect.

The Federal Aviation Administration said O'Hare can handle 190 to 200 arrivals and departures each hour in excellent or marginal weather without creating delays. A 2001 FAA study had recommended a maximum of 200 to 202 flights an hour under those conditions.

When visibility is poor, the airport can handle fewer flights, a maximum of 136 to 144 per hour, according to the new study. The 2001 study had recommended 157 to 160.



Leaf peeping A biker makes his way under a golden canopy of leaves along the South County Trail north of Macy Park in Ardsley, New York.



Just fruity The wackiness of Fantasy Fest is demonstrated by David Frost of Annapolis, Md., left, Paul Cianfrano of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Alex Frost of Annapolis as they stroll down Duval Street in Key West, Fla., on Saturday, attired as icons of an underwear company. The celebration is expected to draw 60,000 revelers.



Great pumpkins Balford Duggan, 95, talks about the two varieties of pumpkins that he grows from seeds passed down in his family since the Civil War in Sevierville, Tenn. He calls them pie pumpkins. They grow behind his house between rows of corn, right next to his turnip patch.



Puppy love Patrick Koch, left, dressed as a minister and with New Horizons Service Dogs Inc., "marries" Patriot, the groom, and Carley, the bride, at the DeLand Animal Hospital's open house in DeLand, Fla. Both 1-year-old golden retrievers are in training to be service dogs.



Surf's up Bethany Hamilton surfs in Heat No. 4 of the Explorers Women division of the national Scholastic Surfing Association meet at Banyans surf spot in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. Hamilton lost her left arm in a shark attack one year ago while surfing off the North Shore of Kauai.



Up, up, away Members of the Hot Shots Balloon crew sail over Carson City, Nev., in preparation for the Nevada Day Parade.



Just married Tom Loveday cradles his bride, Lena Scott, after the Homestead, Fla., couple exchanged vows underwater in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, about six miles off Key Largo, Fla. Included in the wedding party were 112 other divers. The event will be submitted to Guinness World Records to break the current largest underwater wedding mark.

Alcohol referendum

NY WILLIAMSON — William-son was until recent years one of a few towns in the state that prohibited the sale of alcohol.

The Monroe County town allowed no taverns, prohibited beer from being sold at convenience stores and mandated that no wine be sold in the restaurants.

But residents in 1996 voted to change laws on the books for decades to allow beer and wine coolers to be sold in grocery stores.

So voters here will be faced with four more propositions that, if passed, will further loosen restrictions to sell and serve alcohol in the town.

The propositions would allow restaurants to serve alcohol, farms to get winery licenses and liquor stores to open. Bars and taverns would still be banned.

Sweets for troops

MT BILLINGS — A local dentist has hit on a sweet idea: He plans to keep local kids from eating too much candy and gather sweets for the troops in Iraq.

Dr. Michael Stuart said he'll be at the Kmart parking lot to buy candy from trick-or-treaters for \$1 per pound.

Flyers advertising the offer have been distributed to about 20 elementary schools in the Billings area.

Stuart, a father of seven, said he doesn't expect the kids to turn over all of their goodies.

"We'll expect the children to pick out the good stuff they like and bring us the remainder," he said.

Lisa Kreiger, who handles patient services for the dental practice, said she and other staff members have worked on the project since September. The staff also is working with Oral B and the United Way to get toothbrushes to send to the troops, along with the candy.

Stuart said the buyback will offer kids money, keep them from eating too much candy and "it will bring a smile to the faces of our troops."

River gets a boost

NV RENO — A string of early season storms has boosted the flow of the Truckee River and allowed local water officials to halt all use of drought reserves. For the first time in a decade, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority recently was forced to tap into backup water supplies after continued drought lowered Lake Tahoe below its spillway. Storms that dumped up to 6 feet of snow in the Sierra Nevada over the last two weeks of October have swelled the river's flow to meet water demand.

Heart puts trial on hold

VT BENNINGTON — A retired New York police investigator accused of sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl at his Landgrove vacation home 17 years ago will still go on trial if he successfully undergoes a heart transplant.

Leonard Forte, 63, was convicted by a jury in 1988, but the conviction was overturned.

He suffered a series of heart attacks in the wake of the jury's verdict. In 1997, the Vermont attorney general's office conceded that the stress of a new trial would endanger Forte's life.

And so prosecutors have been biding their time while Forte waits for a heart transplant.

Church van flips

TX KILGORE — Two people remained hospitalized after a church van flipped over on Interstate 20 in East Texas, injuring a total of 14 occupants.

State troopers said the van carrying members of the Holy Prayer Apostolic Church to Kilgore was eastbound Sunday on I-20 when it left the roadway and the driver apparently overcorrected, causing the vehicle to flip numerous times, coming to rest in the median 1 mile west of the U.S. Highway 259 exchange.

Several passengers were thrown from the van, said Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Adam Bell.

"All 14 passengers have been transported to hospitals for injuries ranging from minor to critical," Bell told the Tyler Morning Telegraph on Monday's online edition.

Two victims remained at Louisiana State University Medical Center in Shreveport, said hospital spokeswoman Carmel Van Dyke. She said one patient was in fair condition and the other was still being evaluated.

Back on the beach

VA VIRGINIA BEACH — The last time anyone likely saw sailors marching in daily formations at Oceana Naval Air Station, it was just after World War II. Now, partly due to Hurricane Ivan, marching is back. The hurricane damaged the Navy's traditional seat of aviation training in Pensacola, Fla., in mid-September. So some recruits who were to begin training there are instead attending a new school at Oceana.

The heat is on, and costly

MN ST. PAUL — Minnesotans will soon reach for the thermostat, and it'll cost them more when they do. Xcel Energy Inc. is saying its residential customers could see rate increases of up to 35 percent between now and the end of March. CenterPoint Energy Minnegasco projects an 18 percent increase over the same period.

State officials estimate a typical residential gas customer will pay about \$127 for fuel next month versus \$96.30 last November.

Dessert wars

PA BELSANO — Forget "Kramer vs. Kramer." A legal fight brewing between doughnut maker Krispy Kreme and a seasonal ice cream stand could be called "Kreme vs. Kream."

Jack and Christine Hoover have run the Krispy Kream stand in Cambria County's Blacklick Township since 1968, keeping the name that had been in use since the stand opened in 1961.

Recently, the Hoovers received a letter from Krispy Kreme Doughnuts Inc. complaining of trademark infringement and indicating that more "formal steps" would be taken if they don't stop using their name.

The Winston-Salem, N.C., based Krispy Kreme registered its name in 1951.

The Hoovers have hired a lawyer hoping to kill the doughnut company, but they worry that Krispy Kreme's dough may prevail.

Stories and pictures from wire reports

FACES

You can't toss one back with Andy Richter

If you spot Andy Richter at a bar, think twice about asking him over to share a beer.



Richter

Upon quitting "Conan" in May 2000, he starred in the short-lived "Andy Richter Controls the Universe" and now leads "Quintuplets," his current gig on Fox.

Grace having better luck with ladies now

If you're one of the girls who rejected Topher Grace in high school, he has two words for you: Boo hoo. "I think about it and I really hope it's happening," the star of Fox's "That '70s Show" tells the Boston Sunday Globe. "I could even have name names."

Grace, 26, said he looked so young as an adolescent that most girls wouldn't consider him as boyfriend material. "I was very small in high school and nobody wanted to date me," he said.

Grace left college after his freshman year for TV fame. "I had a growth spurt right before college. Unfortunately, I'll never know if I would have done better in college as I grew into myself or if I became popular because I got a TV show."

Grace also has had movie roles in Steven Soderbergh's "Traffic" and starred in "A Win With Tad Hamilton!" He next stars in "P.S." opposite Laura Linney and in December will appear with Dennis Quaid and Scarlett Johansson in "In Good Company."



Grace

Arnold to get public service award

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will travel to Texas next month to receive a public service award from former President George H.W. Bush, officials say.

Presentation of the George Bush Award for Excellence in Public Service will accompany the governor's address on Nov. 30 at Texas A&M University, said Roman Popadiuk, executive director of the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation.

Popadiuk said Schwarzenegger will join U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and former chess champion Helmut Korni as recipients of the George Bush Award for Excellence in Public Service.

Foundation officials said the award recognizes dedication to public service at the local, state, national or international level. The award comes with a custom crystal sculpture and an undisclosed monetary prize.

Sinbad: Cussing no longer cutting edge

Actor and stand-up comic Sinbad hardly ever swears on stage, but he can appreciate those who have.



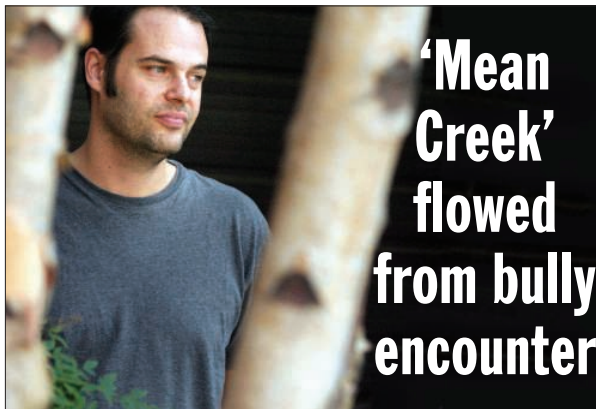
Sinbad

"This is the thing about Lenny Bruce and Richard Pryor and George Carlin and Redd Foxx, people that went that route. They believed in their convictions. They weren't cussing just to cuss. It was a time in America when it was upright. They were pushing the uptightness of America," Sinbad tells the San Antonio Express-News.

"The thing that makes them different from a comic now, who cusses, they weren't rewarded for cussing. As a matter of fact, it was detrimental for their careers. I mean, Lenny and Richard would get arrested onstage."

"So when I look at a guy right now saying he's pushing the envelope, I say, 'You ain't pushing the envelope.' What's edge now? There's not a word that hasn't been used. There's not a curse word that hasn't been touched. Edgy right now, to me, is being yourself."

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



The Washington Post

Jacob Estes' "Mean Creek" casts a serious, artful gaze upon youth violence and revenge plots. The screenplay, Estes says, was inspired by his own experience as young adult with a bully at a basketball court.

BY TOMMY NGUYEN
The Washington Post

THE bully in director Jacob Estes' "Mean Creek" is an overweight, obnoxious, hair-trigger explosive named George, and the neighborhood kids seeking revenge have George right where they want him. They're on a boat floating down the river. They've been thinking about this all day long: Strip the fat boy of his clothes and ditch him in the woods. But George won't be finding his way home today, as the events take a darker turn along the river's edge.

These are good kids, out to serve some conscience to a guy who, from their perspective, rightfully deserves it. But it just gets out of control," says Estes, 31, whose first feature was one of the more talked-about entries at this year's Sundance Film Festival.

Because of its serious, often artful gaze upon youth violence and revenge plots, Estes' film has already been mentioned alongside Larry Clark's "Bully" and Gus Van Sant's Columbine-inspired "Elephant." So it doesn't take long for the conversation to turn to young bullies and their never-dramatic rules on recent movie screens.

In the past, on-screen, "the bullies that I can think of have been more one-dimensional," Estes says. For the most part, moviegoers could easily spot them as the biggest kids in the sandbox. Or the guys in leather or letterman jackets, strutting down a school hallway.

Estes' bully is an outcast, a pushy geek. But he's also clever, funny and human enough at times that the other kids begin to have doubts about their original plan.

"I don't think George is necessarily a new kind of bully," Estes says. "It's more about looking into the heart of your adversary — recognizing humanity instead of objectifying him."

In "Mean Creek," the kid who orchestrates the revenge plot, Marty (Scott Mechlowicz of "Eurotrip"), is a brute himself. What's more, much of the violence, taunting and personal demons gripping these young characters often come with a disarming exhibition of male sexual tension.

"I have no problem with anyone see-

ing that in my movie," the director says. "I think maybe Marty has anxieties about his own sexuality that's explored through the way he bades his friend Clyde, whom I don't see as conflicted about his sexuality, considering that he has two gay fathers."

That detail of Clyde's life can seem curiously out of left field in the movie, but Estes explains that he himself was raised in Chicago by his father and his father's gay partner since the age of 4.

"There was a little window when I was innocent enough to think that it was normal, so I just talked about my gay dads and no one cared," says Estes, whose father and mother divorced when he was 3. "But when the third grade came, everyone was thinking about it all of a sudden. When they started understanding what their homophobic parents were saying," he says, the kids at school started to make fun of him. "It became ugly to the point

"It's more about looking into the heart of your adversary — recognizing humanity instead of objectifying him."

Jacob Estes

"Mean Creek" director

where I started denying that I had gay fathers."

Estes says he wasn't honest about his parents again until he reached the ninth grade. "By then I was intelligent enough to know that I had to be honest about my life. So, for the movie, I wanted to write characters who were as intelligent and as honest as I remember being at that age."

The director knew he wanted to write a screenplay reminiscent of the once-popular '80s genre that found teen-agers navigating a moral vacuum in the absence of adults — films like "River's Edge," "The Outsiders,"

"Over the Edge" and "Stand by Me." But Estes says the movie's revenge plot was inspired by a different emotional circumstance in his life. When he moved to San Francisco after graduation, Estes says he came eye-to-eye with his George on a basketball court.

"I had this story that was brewing intellectually, but not really developing," he says. "When the two things merged, the whole plot erupted."

Estes says the guy, whose name was Greg, stood almost 7 feet tall and would always arrive drunk. But Estes, who is 6 feet 2, says for some reason the bully zoned in on him, both verbally and physically. "He keyed into me, because I think he thought I was gay," says Estes, who has been married for the past three years. "There's a point in the movie when George is erupting on the boat and Clyde says, 'No one talks to people that way, George,' and that's what some of the other basketball players said to this guy while he was attacking me. His words were so hostile and ugly."

Revenge fantasies began to consume Estes. He eventually acted out on one of his less violent, more creative ideas: He doctored a photograph of a "No Parking" sign to read "No Regrets" and put one on each basket's backboard. The sign also listed Greg's negative attributes: "drunk," "racist," "homophobic" and so on.

"Greg went away for a while, but then he came back and things got worse," Estes remembers. "I eventually had to stop playing there."

Estes found the terrain he needed to complete "Mean Creek." The script eventually kick-started his filmmaking career. It got him into the directing program at AFI in 1998. That same year, the screenplay was one of five awarded the Motion Picture Academy's prestigious Nicholl Fellowship, beating out more than 4,400 other submissions.

But then Columbine happened, and the studios didn't want to touch anything that involved kids and violence, especially from a first-timer.

The script was shelved for several years until producer Rick Rosenthal, who teaches at AFI and directed "Bad Boys," stepped in to finance the film with a budget of \$500,000. The film was shot in 24 days, much of it on Washington's Lewis River near the Oregon border.

YOUR POWER TOY builds a database

Q. I have 1,300 music CDs, a powerful computer with Windows XP and an external storage device that can store 250 gigabytes of memory. My CDs are set up in an Excel database. My goal is to play CDs in Windows Media Player by selecting an item from the incorporated database. How can I integrate the database into Windows Media Player? — John Whalen@sanrr.com

A. I think your quest is fascinating, and while pursuing it I found free software from Microsoft called PowerToys for Media Player that comes pretty close to a fine answer but not a perfect one.

This software, written by Microsoft for hobbyists, makes quick work of exporting Media Player playlists into extremely useful Excel spreadsheets. All the data that is imported when the CD is needed (or ripped) into a computer gets displayed under column headings, and each tune is described in succeeding rows of the spreadsheet.

When you start that project to record your huge stack of CDs into computer files, you'll find them into the CD player one by one. The Media Player first reaches out to an Internet database (or ripped) includes information about each CD, such as album title, artist, song name, playing time, file size, genre and several other bits of data.

Music lovers enjoy these spreadsheet databases because they let owners sort their collections in various ways, such as artist name, playing time, etc. So when you have fed the last of those CDs into the computer, you can download the PowerToy that automatically exports the Media Player data into an Excel spreadsheet.

Excel users can then use copy and paste tools to add any special data — like estimated monetary value of each album — from earlier spreadsheets.

This is a great thing to have, but it's not what you want: to be able to fire up Excel and play tunes by clicking on them in their individual cells. With the export to the Excel PowerToy, users still must use the Media Player software to seek out

tunes to play.

Here's where to download the software: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/download/bonuspack.aspx>

Q. I'm an old DOS dinosaur who just purchased a new notebook with Windows XP. I'm still able to run DBase5 for DBase in a window but can't print with my HP LaserJet 5L. I've tried several times with no success.

After installing the printer, it is listed in the printer folder as being offline even though it is on and configured to LPT1, the proper printer port for this computer. I've written a lot of code in Dbase and was able to print when using Windows 95.

Hope you can help. — Bob Guzzio@aatt.net

A. You need to visit the Hewlett-Packard Web site at www.hp.com and download special new driver software that HP prepared for using the models 4, 5 and 6 LaserJets with Windows XP. Look on the lower right-hand side of the busy HP.com home page for a link to Support and Drivers. You will find a search box that will take you to the download area for that driver software.

The software will be downloaded as a file on your desktop. Click on that icon, and HP's software will install it.

On the off chance your problem remains, make sure that Windows looks for the printer in the proper place. Set Windows to look for your printer on a parallel or printer port. Click on Start and then click Control Panel and open the Printers and Fax Panel. There you will find a tab for Ports. Put a check in the box for LPT2 instead of LPT1.

I am close to certain that those software drivers will fix your problem in one step, but if not, you can change the control panel from LPT1 to LPT2 is widely used by owners of DOS equipment and would adding to the answer here.

Contact Jim Coates via e-mail at: jcoates@tribune.com or via snail mail at the Chicago Tribune, Room 400, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611. Questions can be answered only through this column. Add your point of view at: www.chicagotribune.com/asjkm.

Ask Jim



Jim Coates

Shopping.com does well in stock market debut

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The shares of e-commerce company Shopping.com Ltd. surged 8 percent in their stock market debut amid signs investors may have renewed affection for Internet companies.

Driven by unexpectedly strong demand, Shopping.com priced its initial public offering at \$18 per share Monday night, up from the company's \$15 target. The shares, trading under the ticker symbol "SHOP," then climbed another \$0.80 to close Tuesday at \$28.80 on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

Other companies that have completed an IPO this year have averaged a 9 percent gain in their first day of trading, according to Renaissance Capital, a Greenwich, Conn. research firm.

Israel-based Shopping.com, with U.S. headquarters in a suburb just south of San Francisco, raised \$80.8 million, after expenses, with its IPO of 5.06 million shares. Company insiders sold 1.81 million shares in the IPO. The rapid run-up in the stock market gave the 300-employee company a market value of \$800 million.

Shopping.com has developed one of the world's most popular e-commerce sites by offering consumers a free service that compares prices Internet merchants charge for various products. The company makes money on referral fees paid by the participating merchants.

Although Shopping.com attracted 15 million unique visitors last month, it's hardly a household name — unlike other high-flying Internet companies like Google Inc., Yahoo Inc., eBay Inc. and Amazon.com Inc.

The six-year-old service, originally called DealTime, also is relatively small, with its annual revenue on a pace to reach about \$115 million this year.

IPO analyst David Menlow said Shopping.com's debut appears to be riding on the coattails of Google's stock, which has more than

doubled in value since going public in August. During the first six months of this year, Shopping.com generated 43 percent of its revenue from business links with Google.

"I would put investors in the 'deer-in-the-headlights' category right now," said Menlow, president of the IPO Financial Network.

"There are a lot of them who missed out on the Google IPO and now they are looking around to see if there are any other opportunities out there. They are looking for anything that will sizzle back in the marketplace."

Google's soaring stock seems to be lifting the market values of other online businesses. Since Google's IPO, the Dow Jones composite Internet index of stocks has risen by 16 percent.

Meanwhile, the blue-chip Dow Jones industrial average has declined by 2 percent during the same period while the tech-heavy Nasdaq composite index has gained 6 percent.

Menlow and other market observers still don't believe the recent enthusiasm for Internet stocks heralds a return of the irrational exuberance that dominated the late 1990s and precipitated the devastating dot-com meltdown.

Unlike that giddy era, investors are demanding profits from Internet companies, as well as robust revenue growth.

Shopping.com lost \$6.6 million during the first half of the year, but it demonstrated it can turn a profit, earning \$6.9 million last year on revenue of \$67 million. Revenue so far this year has increased by 70 percent.

"Competition shopping is still in its infancy and the market potential is huge," said Tamim Mourad, chief executive of PriceGrabber.com, a Shopping.com rival. "That is what investors are factoring into [Shopping.com] stock price. There are always going to be fears about a mini-bubble forming, but the difference this time is that we are generating real revenue."

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Be crafty with passwords

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Got a good password? Love Sex. Money.

Not so fast. Using common words like those can make it easier for hackers, phishers and other Internet-savvy fraudsters to gain access to your accounts and steal your identity.

If you use the Internet to access your financial accounts, pay bills electronically or view your bank statements via e-mail, it's

vital that you protect your personal information.

Don't use any personal information as a password or security code.

Use a combination of letters, numbers, symbols and punctuation like a dollar sign or exclamation point.

Change your password often, say, every month or so. Computers can be infected with so-called spyware programs, which track keystrokes and Internet activities on your computer.

MONDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY										EXCHANGE RATES									
INDEXES										Military rates									
52-week				Net		YTD		52-wk		Euro				\$1.00		British pound		\$1.00	
High	Low	Down	Up	Change	%	Change	%	High	Low	Change	%	Change	%	Change	%	Change	%	Change	%
10,513.53	5,584.54	Dow Jones Industrial	10,654.39	+26.32	+0.25	+17.82	+1.59	2,515.83	1,750.82	Nasdaq Composite	+1.03	+1.11	+0.62	1,439.09	+0.70	1,439.09	+0.70	1,439.09	+0.70
31,439	2,426.16	Dow Jones Utilities	31,438	+1.04	+3.33	+17.79	+23.91	1,439.09	1,439.09	S&P 500	+1.03	+1.11	+0.62	1,439.09	+0.70	1,439.09	+0.70	1,439.09	+0.70
1,139.75	1,019.41	Dow Jones Energy	1,139.75	+1.04	+3.33	+17.79	+23.91	1,439.09	1,439.09	S&P Midcap	+1.03	+1.11	+0.62	1,439.09	+0.70	1,439.09	+0.70	1,439.09	+0.70
2,412.26	1,750.82	Nasdaq Composite	2,412.26	+1.03	+1.11	+0.62	1,439.09	+0.70	1,439.09	S&P Smallcap	+1.03	+1.11	+0.62	1,439.09	+0.70	1,439.09	+0.70	1,439.09	+0.70
1,163.23	1,028.91	S&P 500	1,163.23	+1.03	+1.11	+0.62	1,439.09	+0.70	1,439.09	Russell 2000	+1.03	+1.11	+0.62	1,439.09	+0.70	1,439.09	+0.70	1,439.09	+0.70
614.84	532.17	S&P Smallcap	614.84	+1.03	+1.11	+0.62	1,439.09	+0.70	1,439.09	Dow Jones World	+1.03	+1.11	+0.62	1,439.09	+0.70	1,439.09	+0.70	1,439.09	+0.70
696.42	595.23	Russell 2000	696.42	+1.03	+1.11	+0.62	1,439.09	+0.70	1,439.09										
11,371.74	11,385.42	DJ Wholesale	11,079.11	+10.16	+0.09	+2.59	+7.38												
NYSE										AMEX									
Most Active (\$1 or more)					Most Active (\$1 or more)					NASDAQ									
Name	Vol	(\$1 or more)	High	Low	Name	Vol	(\$1 or more)	High	Low	Name	Vol	(\$1 or more)	High	Low					
Merck	66,291	28.28	-3.10		Nasdaq	2,412.26	-3.10			Microsoft	74,923	20.00	+1.10						
Johnson & Johnson	19,119	29.08	-2.20		Amgen	1,439.09	-2.20			Amgen	1,439.09	24.48	+1.10						
Pfizer	38,796	31.12	-1.10		Novartis	1,439.09	-1.10			Novartis	1,439.09	24.48	+1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Glaxo	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Eli Lilly	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10		Novartis	19,119	44.00	-1.10						
Gl																			

Horoscope

With the lunar influence in Cancer this morning, our patriotic spirit is still strong, whether or not we were on the winning side of the election. All things American will be the main topic of conversation throughout the day. The moon enters Leo this evening, and some grandstanding is to be expected, both from our leaders and our immediate family.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (November 3). You have many talents, but one will put you in the spotlight this year. Expect a big raise or promotion in April to elevate your status in the workplace. You will probably see family in the summer when you take a trip to celebrate a wedding or birth. A big purchase also is in the cards for you this winter. Lucky love signs are Leo and Aries.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Sometimes life's shadows are caused by our standing in our own sunshine." Take those words of wisdom to heart, and get out of your own way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Master your own bliss. Wherever you go, be alert for signs of beauty and anything to lift your spirit — a stranger's smile, a pretty tree, an interesting cloud formation. The world is filled with simple joys.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your brain is like a computer. You can only take in so much information before you need to sort it out. Take some time out, and just relax.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Fantasizing about fame and fortune is a pleasant distraction, but don't let it keep you from dealing in reality. If it's a new love that has you floating on air, remember that what goes up must eventually come down.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Being independent is all well and good, but someone close to you needs to feel needed. He or she may feel you're so in control that he/she is unnecessary.

in your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You hate to leave with work sitting in your in-box. No matter how much is piled on, you will take it like a fiend until everything is completed and neatly filed away in its place. Understand your limitations, and lighten up on yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're beating yourself up over nothing. All those embarrassing moments you wish you could do over are not going to matter one iota in the long run. In fact, someone thinks your quips are incredibly charming.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You win some, you lose some.

What's important is that you live to fight another day, so if you're really losing the fight, get the heck out of there. Sometimes, it's much better to retreat a foot than to advance an inch.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The key to your financial success on a particular project may depend upon your ability to humble yourself. Since you're used to calling all the shots, and you hate asking for favors, it will be very tough, but try.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). To greet the day with fresh eyes is to know real happiness. What would you do if you were a guest in your home instead of the owner? You'd probably treat the people and possessions there with more care and respect.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's obvious that you're the favorite among power people and could be granted special privileges. Stay humble. If you speak softly, they'll have to lean in close and really listen, especially when you're dealing with a Cancer.

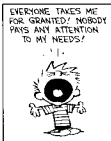
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Major changes are afoot, so prepare to be put to the test. Once you make it through to the other side, you'll be ready to party, and you'll have plenty to celebrate. A new job and possibly a new relationship are in the stars for you.

Creators Syndicate

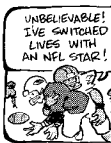
Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



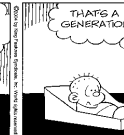
Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



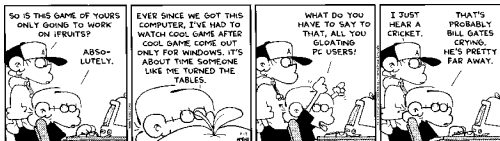
To our readers

For the past decade, this column has been written by Joyce Jillson and Horley Mathis. Ms. Jillson passed away on Oct. 1. Because Ms. Jillson and Ms. Mathis wrote in advance, columns they prepared will run through Nov. 6. Beginning Nov. 7, the horoscopes will be re-named "Horoscopes by Holiday" and will be authored by Ms. Mathis.

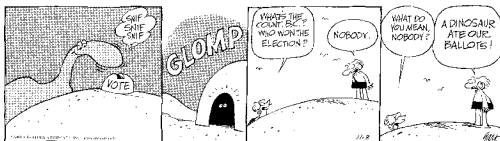
Peanuts



Foxtrot



٥٠



Baby Blues



Spider-Man



Blondie



Dilbert



Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16				17				
18			19				20					
		21		22	23		24		25	26	27	
28	29	30					31		32			
33				34				35		36		
37			38		39				40			
41				42		43						
		44			45			46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54			55		
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

Across

- 1 Performance
4 Red Hot Chili
Peppers bassist
8 Arrived
12 Halloween shout
13 Deserve
14 In due time
15 Shade provider
16 Very competitive
18 Forbidden
20 Victory
21 Tool used to
incite
24 Morris' nine
28 Hall & Oates hit
32 Saucy
33 "Hail, Caesar!"
34 Bulgaria's capital
36 Diva's downfall,
maybe

Down

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Help a hood | 28 Navigator's stack |
| 2 Soft drink choice | 29 Opposite of "sane" |
| 3 The Taj Mahal, basically | 30 Pianist Peter |
| 4 Hats | 31 Comedian Ruders |
| 5 "7 Faces of Dr. —" | 33 Climbs |
| 6 Work unit | 38 Reduced to crumbs |
| 7 From square one | 40 Actress Courteney |
| 8 Treat for Tabby | 42 Dead heat |
| 9 "What's your point?" | 45 Throne |
| 10 Jane Smiley novel | 47 Impulsive force |
| 11 Chang's closest relative | 48 Transaction |
| 12 Have a bug | 49 Boldly provocative |
| 13 Unclose, poetically | 50 "— Doubtfire" |
| 14 Nebraska county | 51 Earthrowie acorn |
| 15 Make diet-friendly | 52 One of the Ts in TNT |
| 16 Swerve | 53 Mad Hatter's qualm |
| 17 Therefore | 54 Slithery one |

Answer to Previous Puzzle

F	A	R	M	T	A	W	S	D	I	M
A	R	E	A	B	L	A	H	E	R	A
D	E	M	I	T	A	S	S	E	M	I
		Z	E	R	O	K	N	I	S	H
M	E	D	E	A	S	E	E	M		
A	M	E	S	D	I	A	L	T	O	N
R	I	M	R	I	N	G	S	N	O	R
S	R	I	L	A	N	K	A	I	D	E
	J	A	M	S	K	N	E	L	T	
R	H	O	D	A	A	V	I	D		
O	O	H	D	E	M	I	M	O	R	E
S	O	N	A	G	E	S	O	B	E	E
A	D	S	N	O	N	E	R	I	D	E

11-3	CRYPTOQUIP
------	------------

C D F M E I Y B J E " K ' W
H F M L K M T W E T P J L F M
M I C ! " K G Y Z Z I G E H D P H ' G

P CFFLKMT PMMIYMBFWFMH.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A RUNNER
 CHOOSES ILL-FITTING SHOES, SHE COULD
 EASILY FEEL THE AGONY OF DE-FEET

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals N

E-mail scams fall short of riches

Dear Abby: I have been hit on by scam artists more than once. They must think I have "smucker" tattooed on my forehead.

The latest has been a series of e-mails telling me that a Mrs. Virginia of the United Kingdom was killed in a car accident, and I am the sole beneficiary of her \$12.5 million estate. All I have to do is provide them with my bank account number, and the money will be transferred from the Habib Trust Bank of England.

Well, I'm not stupid. I gave them the account number of a bank I no longer do business with. There is a grand total of \$2.83 in that account. They are welcome to it.

They are welcome to it. I have a cup of coffee and a cone on me.

Their scam promises they'll do all the paperwork, but after a while they'll tell you that you either have to send an advance of several thousand dollars to "complete the transaction," or go to Nigeria to sign the papers. So, Abby, please warn your

readers if they receive any type of e-mail, or regular mail, or even a phone call to that effect, they should explain it all to the Secret Service like I did. No one should fall for this trap. I'll get \$12.5 million when I am next in line to become the pope.

Dear Abby



— Eugene B., Clifton, N.J.
Dear Eugene: I assume from your letter that you're not waiting for a visit from the College of Cardinals. I'm sure my readers will be grateful for the warning, as well as the reminder that most things that seem too good to be true — usually aren't.

Dear Abby: My

27-year-old, "Ken," has lots of issues and drama. Our relationship has always been rocky. Nothing I have ever done has been good enough.

Ken calls me on the phone and calls me names. I have gone through years of therapy and am doing pretty well, but when I have

contact with him I regress 13 years.

We hadn't spoken since Christmas because I stopped answering the phone when he called. However, last night I did pick up. Our conversation started out well, but it peaked to a horrible yelling contest. Ken called me terrible names and blamed me for everything bad that has happened in his life.

I love Ken, but I don't like him. Is there a way a parent can cut the apron strings?

— Grieving in Texas
Dear Grieving: You say that you have had counseling.

Has your son? If the answer is no, urge him to get some and get his life in order. Should he refuse, make it plain that you will no longer tolerate his verbal abuse and again screen your calls. The longer you allow your son to cause you pain, the longer he will do it.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TRAIE

TIMAD

NARFIA

SPENOR

www.jumble.com

ANS:

Yesterday's

Jumbles: FLUTE QUEER GRIMLY SHAKEN
Answer: Where a pro golfer who fills the greens is likely to end up — IN THE "GREEN"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



WHAT THE RIDER SUFFERED AFTER THE CROSS-COUNTRY RAIL TRIP.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Falsely accused at health club

Dear Annie: I am a member of a health club. Yesterday, the director called and asked me to come in and discuss an "incident." It seems one of the employees accused me of using a major swear word on two separate occasions. I was shocked, to say the least. They would not tell me the name of the employee, "to protect her." What about protecting me against this unfounded allegation? I can guess who the employee is. Last month, there were two young children yelling and running wildly about. I saw no parent in charge. After 10 minutes of this out-of-control behavior, I asked the children to please be quiet. The gym employee, who was present the entire time, then stated that these were HER children and it was her day off.

I did not report her, but apparently, she now has a problem with me. The director said if I ever mention that unacceptable word again, I will lose my membership.

Annie's Mailbox



Annie, unbeknownst to the club (and this employee), I am a minister. I would NEVER use that kind of language.

Should I file a slander suit against the club?

Dear California: The club has not slandered you, the employee has. If there is another false accusation, insist upon confronting your accuser face to face. It could be a case of mistaken identity, and if not, you deserve the opportunity to defend yourself.

Dear Annie: One of the secretaries in our office recently married.

The head secretary organized a surprise party for the bride-to-be. She collected money for a gift and had everyone sign a card. I never was informed of either, which meant my name wasn't on the card and I did not contribute to the gift. I may have missed the e-mail sent around, but I doubt it. And I clearly remember asking

the head secretary if we were going to get a gift and was told, "No. Just show up for the party."

A few days after the party, I was told it wasn't too late to contribute, so I gave an amount slightly over what everyone else gave in order to make up for my tardiness. However, since the bride returned from her honeymoon, she has been particularly short with me.

I want to find a way to smooth things over. What can I do?

— Vexed in Vermont

Dear Vexed: We suspect someone has deliberately been keeping you in the dark, but let's not jump to conclusions. Ask the bride if she liked the gift all of you sent. Apologize for not signing her card, explaining that you wanted to, but somehow it bypassed your desk.

Throw in some friendly conversation and hope for the best.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

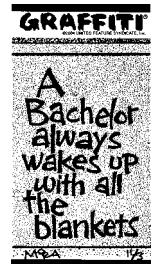
Creators Syndicate

Family Circus

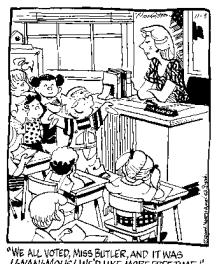


11-3
©2004 by Krome, Inc.
One by King Features Syndicate
www.familycircus.com

"You can learn from your mistakes, so be sure to make some."



Domis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur



NFL scoreboard

American Conference

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	6	1	0	.857	168	124
N.Y. Jets	6	1	0	.857	168	116
Buffalo	2	5	0	.286	115	120
Miami	2	5	0	.286	130	162
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Jacksonville	3	0	0	.100	129	146
Houston	4	0	0	.571	158	143
Indianapolis	4	0	0	.571	128	178
Tennessee	5	0	0	.375	151	178
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	6	0	0	.857	170	134
Baltimore	4	0	0	.571	127	100
Cleveland	3	4	0	.429	147	147
Cincinnati	2	5	0	.286	126	166
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	3	0	0	.625	168	141
San Diego	5	0	0	.625	219	156
Kansas City	3	0	0	.429	126	136
Oakland	2	6	0	.250	138	123

National Conference

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	7	0	0	1.000	186	104
N.Y. Giants	5	2	0	.714	151	113
Dallas	3	4	0	.429	138	177
Washington	2	5	0	.286	98	123
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	6	2	0	.750	170	170
New Orleans	4	0	0	.429	154	181
Tampa Bay	2	4	0	.333	109	124
Carolina	1	6	0	.143	100	158
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	5	2	0	.714	183	162
Kansas City	5	2	0	.571	171	154
Green Bay	4	4	0	.500	206	186
Chicago	5	0	0	.286	108	121
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
St. Louis	4	0	0	.571	158	105
Seattle	4	0	0	.571	152	118
Arizona	2	5	0	.286	126	142
San Francisco	2	6	0	.143	118	182

Sunday's games

Dallas 11, Detroit 21	Buffalo 38, Arizona 14
Tennessee 27, Cincinnati 20	Green Bay 28, Washington 14
Houston 20, Jacksonville 6	Kansas City 45, Indianapolis 35
Philadelphia 15, Baltimore 10	N.Y. Giants 34, Minnesota 13
Seattle 23, Carolina 17	Atlanta 41, Denver 28
San Diego 42, Oakland 14	Pittsburgh 34, New England 20
Cincinnati 23, San Francisco 12	Opp: Tampa Bay, St. Louis, New Orleans, Cleveland

Monday's game

N.Y. Jets 41, Miami 13	Sunday, Nov. 7
Washington at Detroit	Arizona at Miami
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo	Philadelphia at Cincinnati
Oakland at Carolina	Pittsburgh at Pittsburgh
Kansas City at Tampa Bay	N.Y. Giants at N.Y. Giants
Seattle at San Francisco	New Orleans at San Diego
Houston at Denver	New England at St. Louis
Cleveland at Baltimore	Opp: Green Bay, Atlanta, Jacksonville, Tennessee

Monday, Nov. 8

Minnesota at Indianapolis

Monday

Jets 41, Dolphins 14

Miami	W	L	T	Pct
N.Y. Jets	7	1	0	10-14-01

First Quarter

NY-Chreib 25 pass from Pennington (Bricknell kick), 7:26.

Second Quarter

Mia-McMichael 21 pass from Fiedler (McMichael kick), 6:25.

Third Quarter

NY-Carlin 20 run (Bricknell kick), 10:29.

Fourth Quarter

NY-Fordian 43, 12:26.

NY-Fordian 25 run (Bricknell kick), 11:14.

Mia-Thompson 29 pass from Fiedler (McBrynn kick), 10:06.

A-78:15.

Mia NY

First downs	16	22
-------------	----	----

Rushes-yards	259	477
--------------	-----	-----

Punts	18	27
-------	----	----

Punt returns	2	4
--------------	---	---

Interceptions	1	0
---------------	---	---

Comp.-Att.-Int.	20-41-2	12-20-0
-----------------	---------	---------

Pass-Yards-Lost	4-27-0	2-3-0
-----------------	--------	-------

Fumbles-Lost	3-0-1	6-0
--------------	-------	-----

Penalties-Yards	3-20	4-45
-----------------	------	------

Time of possession	29:41	31:15
--------------------	-------	-------

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing-Miami: Morris 11-55, Pennington 1-29, Minor 4-25, N.Y. Jets: Martin 14-115, N.Y. Jets: Martin 14-115, N.Y. Jets: Martin 14-115.

Receiving-Miami: McMichael 7-87, Booker 1-14, Thompson 3-29, Minor 3-12, Thompson 1-29, Kordian 1-15, Lee 1-4, Gilmore 1-3.

Passing-Miami: Fiedler 4-23, N.Y. Jets: Martin 14-115, N.Y. Jets: Martin 14-115, N.Y. Jets: Martin 14-115.

Blocked field goals-Miami: 1-1.

Missed field goals-None.

Jets use run way to rout Dolphins

BY ANDREA ADELSON

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Jets gave the Miami Dolphins a little of Curtis Martin, and a little of LaMont Jordan.

They made a perfect combination. The running back duo helped the Jets embarrass the hapless Dolphins, sending their defense to a new low in a 41-14 rout Monday night. Martin and Jordan each ran for 115 yards and a score, and the 275 yards the Jets racked up on the ground are the most in the NFL this season.

"We always talk about being a 1-2 punch," Martin said. "And you could see that from us tonight."

The last time the teams met on Monday night, the Jets erased a 23-point, fourth-quarter deficit for a 40-37 overtime win in 2000 in what is known as the "Monday Night Miracle."

There was no chance of a comeback this time around. The Jets (6-1) scored 34 straight points, stifling the ineffectual Dolphins (1-7) on offense and humiliating the proud Miami defense, which entered the game ranked fourth in the NFL.

Chad Pennington threw three touchdown passes and went 11-for-19 for 189 yards before being lifted for Quincy Carter in the fourth quarter. The Jets finished with 472 yards of total offense.

"They gave me an old-fashioned beating," Dolphins linebacker Junior Seau said. "I tip my hat to them, for not only what they did against us but the whole year."

New York entered the game



Jets running back LaMont Jordan runs for a 25-yard touchdown during the fourth quarter against the Dolphins. Jordan rushed for 115 yards — the same as starter Curtis Martin — as the Jets rushed for 275 yards.

after its first loss of the season, 13-7 to New England last week-end, but turned in its most complete performance of the year.

Jets coach Herman Edwards knew it was important to keep pace with the Patriots and Steelers, both 6-1 in the AFC.

Moss might miss first game of career

The Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Minnesota's Randy Moss might miss his first career game because of a lingering right hamstring strain that hasn't gotten worse — but isn't getting a whole lot better.

The Vikings will decide later this week whether or not they should rest their first-round receiver on Monday night at Indianapolis.

Since being hurt before halftime of Minnesota's game at New Orleans on Oct. 17, Moss has been limited to just 11 snaps over the last 10 games. Though he leads the team with eight touchdown catches and his consecutive game streak remains alive at 103, he's gone the last two games without a reception.

"Can we get him back at full speed sooner if he goes to rest?" coach Mike Tice said. "Or is he going to be back at full speed the same length of time if we just play him in a limited role — based on the fact that in two weeks he didn't take a step back? So have to monitor that, as the week goes on. We have to do what's best for the team to achieve our goals, which are to win the division and win the world championship. We can't do what's best for a streak, or anything of that nature."

After a bye on Sunday night that he was feeling better, so the seventh-year star will begin the week listed as questionable on the injury report.

Lynch out with broken tailbone

DENVER — John Lynch will be out for two-to-four weeks after being diagnosed with a fractured tailbone.

NFL briefs

Denver's veteran safety went down after being hit in the side by Falcons receiver Brian Finneran in Sunday's 41-28 loss. After trainers helped him up, Lynch walked toward the Atlanta huddle and started yelling at the Falcons.

He wasn't available after the game, but several Broncos said Lynch felt Finneran's pass was a cheap shot.

Denver coach Mike Shanahan said the block appeared legal, "but it was one of those blindside shots that kind of catches you off guard."

Nick Ferguson will start in place of Lynch in next Sunday's game against Houston.

Lions sack leader Porcher retires

DETROIT — Robert Porcher retired Monday, ending a 13-year career as Detroit's career leader in sacks.

"I've thought about this day for a lot of the last three years," Porcher said. "All we think we can play forever, and I was no different, but now the time has come to step aside."

Porcher, who has 95½ sacks, already had announced this would be his last season, but he ended his career early after being inactive for Detroit's first seven games.

"These last seven weeks have been tough," he said. "I had always been proud of being part of the solution, not part of the problem."

Panthers kick Morgan for concussion

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Carolina Panthers are evaluating linebacker Dan Morgan

"If you can keep this bottled up, we have a chance to be a pretty good football team," Edwards said.

The last time the Jets had two 100-yard rushers in a game was Sept. 28, 1975, when John Riggins ran for 145 yards and Carl Garrett had 135 in a 30-24 win over Kansas City. Miami last allowed two 100-yard rushers on Oct. 29, 1989, at Buffalo, when Thurman Thomas had 148 yards and Larry Kinnebrew added 121.

Martin, 31, has had a renaissance in his 10th NFL season. He came into the game second in the league in rushing, while carrying the Jets burden on the ground.

That all changed against the Dolphins. Edwards made it a point to use both backs and wear down the Dolphins defense in the second half. Martin finished with 19 carries and Jordan 14.

"It feels good any time you have a 100-yard rusher and we had two," Jets left tackle Kareem McKenzie said. "How often does that happen?" That's something you can tell to your grandkids."

The Jets defense harassed Jay Fiedler the entire game, sacking the Dolphins quarterback four times and picking him off twice.

Miami got a meaningless score as the game ended, when Fiedler threw a 29-yard touchdown pass to Derritus Thompson. Fiedler finished 20-for-41 for 218 yards.

Sammy Morris had 11 carries for 48 yards.

"When you don't run the football and you don't stop the run, you don't win," Dolphins coach Dave Wannstedt said. "No one understands that more than I do because that's how we've won around here."

to see if he suffered a concussion against the Seahawks.

Morgan was plagued by postconcussion syndrome last year, missing five games and parts of four others. Once completely healed, Morgan acknowledged he suffered dizziness and fatigue while trying to play.

So the Panthers are taking it slow this time with Morgan, who left Sunday's loss in the first half.

Cochin John Fox said it's possible Morgan might not play this week against Oakland.

"You always err on the side of caution when you are dealing with a concussion," Fox said.

Arrington out even longer

ASHBURN, Va. — Redskins Pro Bowl linebacker LaVar Arrington could miss another month because of his knee injury.

Arrington has missed the last five games since having knee surgery Sept. 23. He aggravated the injury in a running drill last week, and a subsequent examination revealed a bone bruise that was there all along.

Seahawks receivers hampered

KIRKLAND, Wash. — Seattle's receiving corps is in disarray after Darrell Jackson, Jerry Rice and Alex Bannister were injured in a victory over the Cardinals.

Jackson, the team's leading receiver, finished the game Sunday but Rice and Bannister couldn't. Jackson hurt an ankle injury, Rice sprained his right ankle, and Bannister — a Pro Bowl special teams player last season — broke his right collarbone and will miss eight weeks.

Turner thinking big for Huskies' next hire

Washington AD would like to see Gilbertson's successor recharge program

By TIM KORTE
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Break out the checkbook, Washington. The athletic director hopes to restore Husky football to its old glory when he hires a new coach, and it's probably not going to come cheap.

Washington AD Todd Turner said Monday that Keith Gilbertson will step down after the season, ending an extremely difficult 15 months as Rick Neuheisel's successor.

"It became apparent to me — really early on the first day I took this job — that if we didn't get a long-term commitment, then I was just going to be the interim



Gilbertson

coach," Gilbertson said.

Turner will begin his search immediately. He announced no time frame but hopes to make the hire quickly. "They're going to need a Ph.D. in coaching," Turner said.

They need to be people of the highest integrity, with a flawless character, who understand the mission of the university and the breadth of the job."

Turner, hired in August, and new university president Mark Emmert are distancing Washington from the turmoil that surrounded Neuheisel's dismissal. They intend to make the Huskies a national power again.

The 56-year-old Gilbertson is 7-13 in two seasons after stepping into a difficult situation in the summer of 2003. Neuheisel had just been fired for gambling on basketball, the offensive coordinator, was promoted.

"It would have been easy to say no," Gilbertson said. "I had other options, but that would have been the opposite of what we tell our kids to do: Step up and take a shot."

The Huskies went 6-6 in Gilbertson's first season, then fell to 1-7 and 0-5 in the Pac-10 after a 31-6 loss at Oregon last weekend. It's the worst season in 35 years for a school that shared the 1991 national title.

Gilbertson, who also coached Idaho (1986-88) and California (1992-95), is 55-48 overall in nine seasons as a head coach.

Names mentioned as potential candidates include California coach Jeff Tedford, New England Patriots offensive coordinator Charlie Weiss, Urban Meyer of Utah, Boise State's Dan Hawkins and Missouri's Gary Pinkel.

All are either rising stars or have ties to Washington.



Rookie Ben Roethlisberger, above, has the best NFL record in his first five games as a starting quarterback since Pittsburgh's Mike Kruczek was 6-0 in 1976.

Double: Philly brings 6-0 mark into Pittsburgh

DOUBLE, FROM BACK PAGE

"We're just trying to keep our focus, keep our mind on the straight and narrow, and focus on Philadelphia."

With former Eagles running back Duane Staley coming off his fourth 100-yard game, it all adds up to arguably the biggest Eagles-Steelers game since 1947. Back then, the Eagles won 21-0 in Pittsburgh in a special Eastern Conference playoff game staged after the teams tied for the regular-season title.

The only comparable regular-season game since the teams moved into separate conferences in 1970 came in 1979, when the Eagles surprised the Steelers 17-14. The Steelers, who would go on to win the Super Bowl, were 4-0 at the time and the Eagles, who would lose in the Super Bowl a year later, were 3-1.

Receiver Hines Ward doesn't think the Steelers will have a problem matching the intensity they showed against the Patriots when they meet the Eagles.

"We've got a great running game, two dominant wide receivers and a young, confident, cocky quarterback back there playing his heart out," Ward said. "We're a hard team to beat."

Cowher also doesn't think the Steelers will become distracted as they try to return to the playoffs after missing them last season and four of their previous six seasons.

"We'll be fine," he said. "We aren't going to squander what we have created for ourselves. We'll be ready to go, trust me."



Philadelphia Eagles at Pittsburgh Steelers
7 p.m. Sunday
AFN-Atlantic

Game time is Eastern European.

BCS berth has eluded Longhorns

By JIM VERTUNO
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Welcome to November, when the Texas Longhorns annually inch toward a berth in the Bowl Championship Series only to see their hopes dashed.

Will this year be any different? The Longhorns already are climbing back into the BCS scene.

Ranked No. 6 in The Associated Press writer's poll, the Longhorns moved from 10th to seventh in the BCS standings after losses by Miami and Florida State.

The trick for Texas is to avoid a loss of their own and hope the system doesn't work against them like it did last year when Kansas State's stunning upset of Oklahoma spoiled the Longhorns' BCS plans.

The Longhorns have three games left on their schedule, starting with Saturday night's Big 12 matchup with Oklahoma State (6-2).

Texas players say it's time to think about the Cowboys, not a potential bowl game.

"Coach told us to put it out of our minds," senior linebacker Derrick Johnson said Monday. "You always want to be optimistic, but we still have to win all our games."

It sounds good, but that attitude didn't help Texas last year.

After losing to Oklahoma at midseason, the Longhorns ripped off six straight wins and were ranked No. 6 in the BCS. An Oklahoma win over Kansas State in the Big 12 title game would have sent Texas to the Fiesta Bowl.

Instead, the Wildcats bumped off the Sooners. Kansas State grabbed the conference's automatic BCS berth and sent Texas tumbling all the way back to the Holiday Bowl where the disgruntled Longhorns lost to Washington State.

"We were crushed because of

TEAM	Associated Press			USA Today/ESPN			Computers			BCS Average	Previous
	Rank	Points	Pct.	Rank	Points	Pct.	Rank	Points	Pct.		
1. Southern Cal	1	1,616	.9945	1	1,516	.9941	11	98	.980	.9895	1
2. Oklahoma	2	1,595	.9875	2	1,459	.9567	11	98	.980	.9848	2
3. Auburn	3	1,507	.9274	3	1,409	.9209	3	92	.920	.9238	4
4. California	4	1,362	.8932	6	1,200	.7869	5	79	.790	.8050	8
5. Wisconsin	5	1,359	.8963	4	1,262	.8275	11	61	.610	.7579	7
6. Utah	7	1,212	.7458	8	1,087	.7128	6	77	.770	.7424	6
7. Texas	6	1,230	.7565	7	1,150	.7541	9	70	.700	.7370	10
8. Tennessee	9	1,132	.6966	11	931	.6105	4	83	.830	.7124	11
9. Georgia	8	1,162	.7151	5	1,221	.8007	12	68	.680	.7019	9
10. Miami	11	1,035	.6399	10	979	.6420	10	68	.680	.6530	3
11. Michigan	10	1,062	.6535	9	1,025	.6721	13	50	.500	.6086	12
12. Boise State	16	685	.4215	15	724	.4748	7	75	.750	.5488	13
13. Florida State	13	803	.4942	113	743	.4872	114	44	.440	.4738	5
14. Virginia	12	815	.5015	113	743	.4872	16	38	.380	.4563	16
15. Louisville	14	793	.4980	16	681	.4466	16	32	.320	.4182	17
16. West Virginia	15	754	.4640	12	794	.5141	19	27	.270	.4160	18
17. Louisiana State	17	557	.3428	17	576	.3777	20	25	.250	.3235	20
18. Arizona State	23	189	.1163	23	144	.0944	8	74	.740	.3169	15
19. Oklahoma State	19	469	.2866	19	352	.2308	17	37	.370	.2965	19
20. Virginia Tech	18	515	.3189	18	503	.3298	23	12	.120	.2556	22
21. Iowa	20	416	.2560	20	341	.2236	21	21	.210	.2299	23
22. Texas A&M	22	206	.1268	22	144	.0944	14	44	.440	.2219	14
23. Southern Miss	21	209	.1286	21	239	.1567	25	10	.100	.1284	NR
24. UTEP	25	69	.0423	30	28	.0184	22	17	.170	.0769	24
25. Boston College	24	111	.0685	25	102	.0669	NR	0	.000	.0451	NR

Explanation

Team percentages are derived by dividing a team's actual voting points by a maximum 1,625 possible points in the AP Poll and 1,525 possible points in the USA Today/ESPN Coaches Poll.

Six computer rankings calculated in the USA Today/ESPN report (25 for #1, 24 for #2, etc.) are used to determine the overall computer component. The best and worst rankings for each team are dropped, and the remaining four are added and divided by 100 (the maximum possible points) to produce a Computer Ranking Percentage. The six computer ranking providers are Anderson & Hestler, Richard Billingsley, Collyer, Martin, Kenneth Massey, Jeff Sagani and Peter Wolfe. Each computer ranking accounts for schedule strength in its formula.

The BCS Average is calculated by averaging the percent totals of the Associated Press, USA Today/ESPN Coaches and Computer polls.

SOURCE: The National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame Inc.

some system," said coach Mack Brown, who still preaches his win-first, worry-later attitude to his players.

After Oklahoma State, the Longhorns travel to Kansas before finishing the season at home against Texas A&M. The Longhorns also need other teams in front of them to lose in order to move up the standings and solidify a BCS berth.

Senior safety Phillip Geiggar said the Longhorns felt they were robbed of a BCS berth last season.

"When you think about last year and how we got played by the system, we throw it out of our heads," he said. "If we lose next weekend, it's not going to matter."

Texas' BCS disappointments go deeper than last year.

In 2001, the Longhorns won six in a row to end the regular season and won the Big 12 South Division title. A victory over Colorado would have sent the Longhorns to the national title game but the

Buffaloes ended those dreams with a 39-7 victory.

Instead of winning Brown's first conference title as a head coach, the Longhorns went to the Holiday Bowl. Colorado got the conference's automatic BCS bid and Nebraska, which didn't even win the Big 12 North, played Miami in the BCS championship.

In 2002, the Longhorns recovered from another loss to Oklahoma to crawl back into the BCS picture only to lose to Texas Tech at Lubbock.

NBA in need of main attraction

2004-05 NBA PREVIEW

With Lakers dismantled, league looks for next stars

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

The Associated Press

Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal agree on one thing: The NBA's new marquee team is ... drum roll, please ...

"It'd have to be Detroit, wouldn't it?" Bryant said.

"I don't know. I'd probably have to say the Pistons," offered O'Neal.

OK, so it's a less-than-convincing argument made by the two superstars, but can anyone blame them? The NBA is entering unfamiliar territory in its first season following the breakup of the Los Angeles Lakers, unquestionably the NBA's marquee team for the past half-decade.

With O'Neal now in Miami, coach Phil Jackson in semi-retirement and Bryant the only one of the threesome still remaining with the Lakers, there's a void where there used to be a vortex.

Sure, the Pistons are the defending champions. But they're not the ones headlining the league's Christmas doubleheader — the annual time when commissioner David Stern tries to hook the casual fan into declaring "I Love This Game."

No, the big attraction on that holiday is the first meeting between the former teammates known to many simply as Shaq and Kobe, who were split up over the summer when the Lakers dealt O'Neal to Miami for three starters and a No. 1 draft pick.

Not since 1975, when Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was sent from the Milwaukee Bucks to the Lakers, has a dominating center in the prime of his career been traded.

That assumes, however, that the 32-year-old O'Neal is still at the top of his game.

"Well, any team without Shaq is not as good. I don't care who's left," offered San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich, whose team is considered by many to be the favorite in the West. "If [Tim] Duncan wasn't on our team, we wouldn't be as good. If [Kevin] Garnett wasn't on Minnesota, they wouldn't be as good."

"But at the same time it doesn't mean they [Lakers] are a bad team. They're going to be a competitive team, and Kobe is going to want to put them on his shoulders and do some things. And he's such a great player, he's going to have a good amount of success with that."

But remains in the stronger of the two conferences, but there's no question the East is vastly improved — both by the

Who's the NBA's marquee team?

Breakup of the Lakers • Expansion Bobcats debuts • League realigns to four divisions

The NBA is entering unfamiliar territory in its first season following the breakup of the Los Angeles Lakers, unquestionably the league's marquee team for the past half-decade. With Shaquille O'Neal now in Miami, coach Phil Jackson in semi-retirement, Kobe Bryant is the only one of the threesome still remaining with the Lakers. There's been talk that the balance of power has shifted from West to East due to the Detroit Pistons' success and O'Neal's relocation, but the

Western Conference still has the larger number of quality teams able to compete for a championship. Many think the defending champion Detroit Pistons are one of the top teams to beat. The Pistons return with almost the same exact lineup, tinkering only to strengthen its bench with the additions of Antonio McDyess, Derrick Coleman and Carlos Delfino.

Pistons' Rasheed Wallace (36), Ben Wallace (3) and the entire starting lineup are back and looking to defend their title.

Division of land

The NBA's newest member, the Charlotte Bobcats, will tip off its inaugural season as part of the Eastern Conference while the New Orleans Hornets will move from the East to the West. Each conference will have a total of 15 teams; three divisions of five teams.



Old faces, new places

Some of the offseason's biggest deals:

Shaquille O'Neal from Lakers to Miami for Lamar Odom, Caron Butler, Brian Grant and a No. 1 draft pick. Moves the game's most unstoppable force from West to East.

Tracy McGrady from Orlando to Houston, along with Juwan Howard and Tyronn Lue, for Steve Francis, Cuttino Mobley and Kelvin Cato. The league's defending scoring champion will join Yao Ming.

Kenyon Martin from New Jersey to Denver for three future first-round draft picks. The Nets disassemble what was the strongest team in the East over the past three years.

Free agent Steve Nash leaving Dallas for Phoenix. Mavs recover with several subsequent offseason moves, including the acquisition of center Erick Dampier from Golden State.

Free agents Carlos Boozer (Cavaliers) and **Mehmet Okur** (Detroit) joining the Utah Jazz. Who says it takes time to rebuild? In second season following end of Sticks-Malone era, the Jazz look pretty good.

SOURCE: National Basketball Association



With the Miami Heat's acquisition of Shaquille O'Neal, the Eastern Conference now boasts the defending NBA champions (Detroit Pistons) and the most dominant center in the game today.

addition of O'Neal, and by the success shown by Larry Brown's team last spring when the Pistons upset the Lakers and became the first team in 25 years to win a title without a true superstar on its roster.

Detroit returns almost the same exact lineup, tinkering only to strengthen its bench with the additions of Antonio McDyess, Derrick Coleman and Carlos Delfino — the latter coming from among the gold medal-winning members of Argentina's Olympic team who showed the world in Athens how the Pistons weren't the only ones thriving on the concept of team play.

The Pistons won over many casual fans last June by picking

apart the Lakers behind the efficient playmaking of Chauncey Billups, the mid-range shooting of Richard Hamilton and the beneath-the-boards energy of Ben Wallace.

The old winning formula — surrounding one or two superstars with role players — no longer sits unchallenged as the best way for NBA teams to build.

But that doesn't mean the old recipe is dead. What happened to the Pistons, in some minds, might be more indicative of a fluke than a fundamental shift.

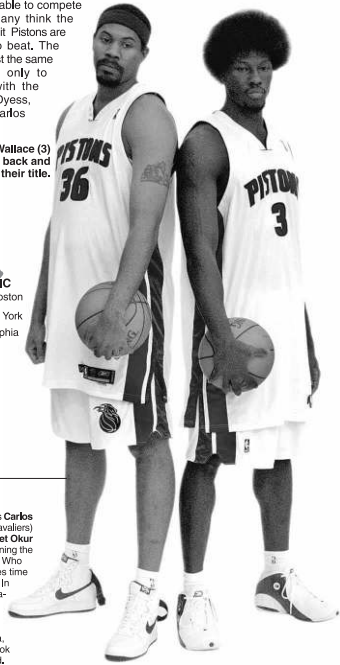
"They were a really true team and they played with great balance, they played unselfishly, they had depth and they happened to be in the right place at

the right time and maybe catch the Lakers when they were at a point where they were a little off," said Indiana coach Rick Carlisle, whose team was knocked off by Brown's in the Eastern Conference finals.

"That's no knock on Detroit, but being opportunistic is one of the things that is really important in this league."

The Heat were certainly opportunistic when they seized upon the availability of O'Neal — it first came up in a talk between Lakers owner Jerry Buss and Heat president Pat Riley regarding Riley's interest in rejoining the Lakers as coach — and acquired him for Lamar Odom, Caron Butler and Brian Grant.

SEE MARQUEE ON PAGE 31



NBA team capsules

By CHRIS SHERIDAN
The Associated Press

A look at the 30 NBA teams as they head into the 2004-05 season. In predicted order of finish by division:

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

New York Knicks

LAST SEASON: 31-43, eliminated 4-0 by New Jersey in first round of playoffs.

COACH: Lenny Wilkens, first full season with Knicks, 23-19; 22nd season overall, 1,315-1,133.

ADDED: G Jamal Crawford, F Jerome Williams (trade with Bulls), F Trevor Ariza (draft, No. 43, UCLA).

LOST: C Dikembe Mutombo, F Othello Harris, G Frank Williams (traded to Chicago), G Delmar Johnson (free agent, Denver).

BETTER OR WORSE? Improved in the offseason by dealing three non-contributors and signing coach Lenny Wilkens, who will begin the regular season as the starting shooting guard due in part to Alton Houston's slow return from knee soreness. Will be suspected defensively and still in the middle, especially if Kurt Thomas supplants Nazzari in the pivot and Michael Sweetney moves into Thomas' old spot at power forward.

Philadelphia 76ers

LAST SEASON: 33-49, missed playoffs.

COACH: Jim O'Brien, first season with 76ers; fifth season overall, 139-119.

ADDED: C Brian Skinner (free agent, Bucks), F Kendrick Brown, G Kevin Ollie (trade with Celtics), F Corliss Williamson (trade with Pistons), F Andre Iguodala (draft, No. 9, Arizona).

LOST: G Eric Snow (traded to Cleveland), F Kendrick Coleman (traded to Detroit), G Greg Buckner (free agent, Denver), C Zondan Hamilton (free agent, Milwaukee).

BETTER OR WORSE? Depends on whether Iverson can make a successful switch from shooting guard to point guard, a tricky proposition for a player who has never played that position since his rookie season. Williamson is an upgrade over Coleman, but Snow's defense and leadership will be missed. Iguodala was picked to start at small forward over Glenn Robinson, and Marc Jackson ended up incumbent Samuel Dalembert to start at center.

Boston Celtics

LAST SEASON: 36-46, eliminated 4-0 by Detroit in first round of playoffs.

COACH: Doc Rivers, first season with Celtics; sixth season overall, 171-168.

ADDED: G Gary Payton (trade with Lakers), G Gligola (free agent, Jazz), F Al Jefferson (draft, No. 16, Kentucky), M (H.S.), G Delonte West (draft, No. 24, Saint Joseph's), G Troy Allen (draft, No. 25, Oklahoma State).

LOST: G Chuckie Atkins, F Jerome Jones, C Chris Miller (traded to L.A. Lakers), F Brandon Hunter (expansion draft, Charlotte).

BETTER OR WORSE? If Raef LaFrentz is able to recover after knee surgery caused him to miss a majority of last season, the Celtics should at least

contend for a .500 record. Paul Pierce remains one of the league's best shooting guards, but what was Danny Ainge thinking when he sent three players to the Lakers for Rick Fox, who retired, and Payton, who has little left.

Toronto Raptors

LAST SEASON: 33-49, missed playoffs.

COACH: Sam Mitchell, first season.

ADDED: C Rafael Araujo (draft, No. 8, BYU), G Rater Alston (free agent, Heat), C Loren Woods (free agent, Bobcats).

LOST: C Prince Blair (free agent), D Don Glover (free agent), G Rod Strickland (free agent), F Michael Cruz (free agent).

BETTER OR WORSE? Until they figure out a long-term solution to the question of whether Vince Carter will be part of the team's future, it's difficult to see this franchise moving forward. Rob Bateman has been brought in to replace Glen Grunwald as general manager. Alston is an upgrade over Alvin Williams, whose career it appears will be cut short by a knee injury.

New Jersey Nets

LAST SEASON: 47-35, eliminated 4-3 by Detroit in conference semifinals.

COACH: Lawrence Frank, first full season, 22-13.

ADDED: G Ron Mercer (free agent, Spurs), G Jonny Butler (free agent, Kings), C Nenad Krstic (rookie, Partizan Belgrade, Serbia), G Travis Best (free agent, Mavericks), F Eric Williams (free agent, Cavaliers), G Jacque Vaughn (free agent, Hawks).

LOST: F Kenyon Martin (traded to Denver), G Kerry Kittles (traded to L.A. Clippers), G Luchiano Harris (free agent, Cleveland), F Rodney Rogers (free agent, New Orleans), F Tamarai Saye (free agent, Cavaliers).

BETTER OR WORSE? Definitely worse, having traded Kenyon Martin and Kerry Kittles for draft picks. Jason Kidd begins the season on the injured list, and if he comes back healthy after knee surgery, he should be a prime candidate to be dealt before the Feb. 24 trading deadline. Same goes for Alonzo Mourning, who is attempting a comeback after a kidney transplant.

Central Division

Detroit Pistons

LAST SEASON: 54-28, won NBA title 4-1 over the Los Angeles Lakers, 95-87.

ADDED: F Antonio McDyess (free agent, Portland, S.N.), F Derrick Coleman (trade with 76ers), G Carlos Delfino (rookie, Skipper Bologna, Italy), G Ronald Dupree (free agent, Bulls).

LOST: F Corliss Williamson (traded to Detroit), F Mehmet Okur (free agent, Utah), F Tremaine Fowles (free agent, New Orleans), G Mike James (free agent, Milwaukee).

BETTER OR WORSE? Improved throughout the final two months of the regular season and during the course of the playoffs last season after acquiring Rashad Wallace, and now will have a year of experience under Brown's leadership.

ship, McDyess could be a valuable addition, but the Williamson-Coleman deal made little sense from a talent standpoint.

Indiana Pacers

LAST SEASON: 61-21, eliminated 4-2 by Detroit in Eastern Conference finals.

COACH: Rick Carlisle, second season with Pacers; fourth season overall, 161-101.

ADDED: F Stephen Jackson (trade with Hawks), C David Harrison (draft, No. 29, Colorado), G Eddie Gill (free agent, Trail Blazers).

LOST: F Al Harrington (traded to Atlanta), C Prince Brezcek (expansion draft, Charlotte), G Kenny Anderson (free agent, Atlanta).

BETTER OR WORSE? Lost some of their depth by dealing the unhappy Harrington to Atlanta, but added a much-needed outside shooter in Jackson, who will move into the space soon to be vacated by Reggie Miller. Trasley is a cut below the league's best point guards, and Jonathan Bender and Austin Croshere need to become productive — especially with Jeff Foster out for the first six weeks of the season. If the Pacers are going to approach 60 victories.

Cleveland Cavaliers

LAST SEASON: 35-47, missed playoffs.

COACH: Paul Silas, second season with Cavs, 35-47; 10th season overall, 321-370.

ADDED: F Drew Gooden (trade with Magic), G Eric Snow (trade with 76ers), G Sasha Pavlovic (trade with Bobcats), F Luke Jackson (draft, No. 10, Oregon), F Robert Traylor (free agent, Celtics), G Lucious Harris (free agent, Nets), F Anderson Vaughn (rookie, FC Barcelona), F Scott Williams (free agent, Mavericks).

LOST: F Carlos Boozer (free agent, Utah), Eric Williams (free agent, Hawks), G Tony Battle (traded to Orlando), G Kevin Ollie, F Kendrick Brown (traded to Philadelphia), F Jason Kapono (expansion selection, Charlotte), F Lee Nelson (free agent, New Orleans).

BETTER OR WORSE? Gooden is nowhere near the talent Boozer was at postgame, but Snow is a key addition to the backcourt. Pavlovic and Harris will open up the court for LeBron James with their outside shooting, and Zydrunas Ilgauskas might just be the conference's second-best center behind Shaquille O'Neal, at least from an offensive standpoint.

Chicago Bulls

LAST SEASON: 23-59, missed playoffs.

COACH: Scott Skiles, first full season with Bulls, 19-47; fifth season overall, 135-125.

ADDED: G Ben Gordon (draft, No. 3, Connecticut), G Andrei Noronik (rookie, Tau Ceramica, Spain), F Luog Ding (draft, No. 8, Duke), F Othello Harris (free agent, Hawks), G Frank Williams (trade with Knicks), G play point guard rather than shooting guard, who he seems more comfortable.

LOST: F Adrian Griffin (trade with Rockets), F Gary Trent (free agent, Bulls), G Chris Duhon (draft, No. 38, Duke).

LOST: F Scottie Pippen (retired), G Jamal Crawford, F Jerome Williams (traded to New York), G Ronald Dupree

(free agent, Detroit), F Linton Johnson (free agent, San Antonio), F Marcus Fizer (free agent).

BETTER OR WORSE? Now in their sixth consecutive year of rebuilding, the Bulls may actually be on the verge of some real improvement. Eddie Curry shed 30 pounds over the summer to get fit for his contract year. Kirk Hinrich has been re-signed during the preseason. Nocioni will be a pleasant surprise, and Gordon can flat-out play.

Milwaukee Bucks

LAST SEASON: 41-41, eliminated 4-1 by Detroit in first round of playoffs.

COACH: Terry Porter, second season, 41-41.

ADDED: C Zondan Hamilton (free agent, 76ers), G Mike James (free agent, Pistons), C Jelani McCoy (free agent, Cavaliers), C Zaza Pachulia (trade with Bobcats), G Maurice Williams (free agent, Jazz), G Damon Jones (free agent, Miami), G Brian Grant (free agent, Philadelphia), G Brevin Knight (free agent, Charlotte).

BETTER OR WORSE? The continued absence of T.J. Ford because of a knee injury, along with the departure of Damon Jones via free agency, gives Milwaukee some serious questions in the backcourt. One of the league's surprise leaders before losing 14 of their final 22 games, that success may have lulled them into a false sense of security that produced nothing resembling an upgrade over the offseason. Their center position is weaker, with Skinner gone and Daniel Santiago and Dan Gadzuric trying to step in.

Southeast Division

Miami Heat

LAST SEASON: 42-40, eliminated 4-2 by Indiana in second round.

COACH: Stan Van Gundy, second season, 42-40.

ADDED: C Shaquille O'Neal (trade with Lakers), C Michael Doleac (free agent, Nuggets), G Damon Jones (free agent, Bucks), G Keyron Douglas (free agent, Clippers), F Christian Laettner (free agent, Warriors), G Wesley Person (free agent, Hawks), F Dwight Howard (draft, No. 18, South Kent (Conn.) Prep).

LOST: F Lamar Odom, F Caron Butler, F Brian Grant (traded to L.A. Lakers), F Rafael Alston (free agent), C Shaquille Walker (free agent, Washington), C Loren Woods (expansion draft, Charlotte).

BETTER OR WORSE? It's impossible to gauge O'Neal and the Heat were better to pull off the rare feat of acquiring a dominating center before he's past his prime, and Van Gundy will unleash him on an array of Eastern Conference centers with no hope of stopping him. This could be the first time in O'Neal's college or pro career that he averages 30 points. On the downside, the trade severely depleted the Heat's depth. Dwyane Wade will be asked to play point guard rather than shooting guard, who he seems more comfortable.

Orlando Magic

LAST SEASON: 21-61, missed playoffs.

COACH: Johnny Davis, second season with Magic.

20-51; third season overall, 44-111.

ADDED: G Steve Francis, G Cuffin Mobley, F Kevin Cal (trade with Houston), F Dwight Howard (draft, No. 1, Southeast Atlanta Christian Academy), C Tony Battie (trade with Cavaliers), G James Nelson (draft, No. 20, Saint Joseph's), F DeDe Torgurol (free agent, Portland), G J.J. Redick (free agent, Hawks), F Stacy Augmon (free agent, Hornets).

LOST: F Tracy McGrady, F Juwan Howard, G Tyrion Lewis, G Heese Gaines (traded to Houston), F Drew Gooden (traded to Cleveland), C Steven Hunter (free agent, Phoenix), F Britton Johnson (free agent, Portland), G J.J. Redick (trade with Charlotte), F J.J. Redick (trade with Charlotte).

BETTER OR WORSE? Undoubtedly better, and could be the sleeper team in the East. General manager John Weisbord was able to bring in plenty of talent in exchange for McGrady, who becomes the first player since Bob McAdoo in 1976 to be traded in the year after he won the scoring title. The playoffs are very possible if Grant Hill manages to keep playing on his repaired and re-repaired ankles, and if Dwight Howard can make a contribution while learning the pro game.

Washington Wizards

LAST SEASON: 25-57, missed playoffs.

COACH: Eddie Jordan, second season with Wizards, 25-57; fourth season overall, 58-121.

ADDED: F Antwan Jamison (trade with Mavericks), F Samaki Walker (free agent, Hawks), F Michael Ruffin (free agent, Jazz), G Anthony Peeler (free agent, Kings), C Peter John Ramos (draft, No. 32, Puerto Rico).

LOST: G Jerry Stackhouse, F Christian Laettner (traded to Dallas), F Lonny Baxter (expansion selection, Charlotte).

BETTER OR WORSE? The franchise felt it could not move forward with acquisitions Stackhouse and Laettner in the locker room, but the Wizards may have given up too much when they packaged them with the No. 5 pick to acquire Laettner. Odom's arrival promises to be more mature, and everyone is still waiting for Kwame Brown to develop into a steady contributor.

Atlanta Hawks

LAST SEASON: 28-54, missed playoffs.

COACH: Mike Woodson, first season with Hawks, 28-54.

ADDED: F Antonio Walker, G Tony Delk (trade with Mavericks), F Khamari Larrison (trade with Pacers), G Al Jefferson (free agent, Bucks), G Jon Barry (free agent, Nuggets), C Shaquille Walker (free agent, Washington), C Kevin Willis (free agent, Spurs), F Darnell Harvey (free agent, Spurs), C Peja Stojakovic (trade with Bobcats), G Josh Childress (draft, No. 16, Stanford), G Josh Smith (draft, No. 17, Oklahoma State).

LOST: G Jason Terry, F Alan Anderson (traded to Dallas), G Stephen Jackson (traded to Indiana), G Bob Sura (free agent, Houston), F Wesley Person (free agent, Portland), G Joel Przybilla (free agent, Portland), G Jacque Vaughn (free agent, New Jersey), C Zeljko Rebracka (free agent, L.A. Clippers).

BETTER OR WORSE? It's time for another rebuilding year, but don't count on Walker sticking around for the whole thing. Atlanta could try to move him to a contender at the trade deadline. This chess should be the starter at shooting guard, but the point guard job could fall to a player — Anderson — who was the third-stringer in Indiana last season.

SEE CAPSULES ON PAGE 30

NBA team capsules

CAPSULES, FROM PAGE 29

Charlotte Bobcats

LAST SEASON: Inaugural season for league's first expansion team since the Raptors and Grizzlies joined the NBA in 1995.

COACH: Bernie Bickerstaff, 11th season, 338-348.

ADDED: C Emeka Okafor (draft, No. 2, Connecticut), C PJ Brown (expansion draft, Indiana), C Jamir White (Phoenix), F Theron Smith (Memphis), F J.J. Hunter (Boston), F Jamal Sampson (Lakers), F Jason Kapono (Cleveland), F Melvin Ely, G Eddie House (trade with Clippers), F Tamar Slay (free agent, New Jersey), G Jason Hart (free agent, Spurs), G Bernard Robinson (draft, No. 45, Michigan), G Dennis Knight (free agent, Bulls), G Steve Smith (free agent, Hornets).

LOST: C Paja Drobniak (traded to Atlanta), F Zaza Pachulia (traded to Atlanta), F Sasha Pavlovic (traded to Cleveland).

BETTER OR WORSE?: In the case of an expansion team, it'd be hard to do more than win 0-17 start by the Miami Heat in their inaugural season of 1988-89. As the season drags on, another fitting strand of comparison might be the worst record in NBA history, 9-73 by the Philadelphia 76ers in 1973-74.

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Northwest Division

Minnesota Timberwolves

LAST SEASON: 58-24, eliminated 4-2 in Western Conference playoffs by Los Angeles.

COACH: Flip Saunders, 10th season, 386-300.

ADDED: Eddie Griffin (free agent, Nets), G Anthony Carter (free agent, Spurs).

LOST: F Gary Trent (free agent, Chicago), F Gary Trent (free agent, Chicago).

BETTER OR WORSE?: How bout exactly the same? Very little changed for the Wolves in the offseason, except the moves of Sam Cassell and Latrell Sprewell going south because of their lack of contract extensions. Wally Szczarbak is once again the subject of trade speculation, but Cassell would miss or be traded shooting unless it's replaced in any such deal. The backcourt is aging quickly, and center Michael Olowokandi has provided little. They're the poorer of the two sides to make it to the conference finals, mostly because of reigning MVP Kevin Garnett's dominance. They may improve as much as they did a year ago? Don't count on it.

Utah Jazz

LAST SEASON: 42-40, missed playoffs.

COACH: Jerry Sloan, 20th season, 917-561.

ADDED: F Carlos Boozer (free agent, Cavaliers), F Mehmet Okur (free agent, Pistons), F Kris

Hutchinson (draft, No. 14, Minnesota), G Kirk Snyder (draft, No. 16, Nevada).

LOST: G Greg Ostertag (free agent, Kings), F Michael Ruffin (free agent, Washington), F Tom Gushka (free agent, Houston), G Maurice Williams (free agent, Milwaukee), G Sasha Pavlovic (expansion selection, Charlotte).

BETTER OR WORSE?: Made two more bad trades along the front line, getting a young inside-outside threat to Okafor to replace Ostertag, and an Olym-

pian in the back who will become the franchise's next stalwart at power forward.

point guard Paul Lopez remains hampered by knee injuries, but Carlos Arroyo isn't all that shabby. The return of Matt Harpring from an injury will help immensely.

Denver Nuggets

LAST SEASON: 43-39, eliminated 4-1 by Minnesota in first round.

ADDED: Jeff Ezdek, third season, 60-104.

LOST: F Kanyon Martin (trade with Nets), G Greg Buckner (free agent, 76ers), G DeMar Johnson (free agent, Knicks), F Byron Russell (free agent, Lakers).

LOST: C Michael Doleac (free agent, Miami), F Chris Anderson (free agent, New Orleans), G Jon Barry (free agent, Atlanta), F Ryan Bowen (free agent, Houston).

BETTER OR WORSE?: Adding Mike Miller should have traded away Nene or Carmelo Cundy gave the Nuggets one of the deepest front lines in the West, but Martin still has to justify his massive contract without having the benefit of Jason Kidd feeding him countless alley-op opportunities as he did in New Jersey. Shooting guard is the weakest link, and Ezdek is a lame duck entering the final season of his contract.

Portland Trail Blazers

LAST SEASON: 41-41, missed playoffs.

COACH: Maurice Cheeks, fourth season, 140-106.

ADDED: G Nick Van Exel (trade with Warriors), G Richie Farmer (free agent, Bobcats), G Sebastian Telford (draft, No. 13 (N.Y.) H.S.), C Joel Przytyl (free agent, Hawks).

LOST: D Dale Davis, G Miles Dickie (traded to Golden State), G Steve Gill (traded to New Jersey).

BETTER OR WORSE?: Weren't about to find a taker for Steve Abdul-Rahim, who has been unhappy with Portland ever since arriving along with The Ratliff last February in a midseason trade. There aren't enough minutes to keep both Van Exel and Damon Stoudamire happy at point guard. Look for a big shakeup by midseason. If the Blazers start poorly, with everyone expendable.

Seattle SuperSonics

LAST SEASON: 37-45, missed playoffs.

COACH: Mike McMillan, fifth season, 160-175.

ADDED: C Robert Swift (draft, No. 12, Bakersfield (Calif.)), H Kevin McHale (free agent, Utah), F Ibrahim Kutluay (free agent, Uker Island), F Dan Dikari (trade with Warriors), F Danny Fortson (free agent, Mavericks).

LOST: G Brent Barry (free agent, San Antonio), G Calvin Booth (free agent, Dallas), G Richie Farmer (expansion selection, Charlotte), F Ansu Sesay (free agent, Golden State).

BETTER OR WORSE?: Made two more lucrative offers than San Antonio did to keep top players, but he left a gaping hole in the backcourt. The franchise has been trading water for six years and counting.

Southwest Division

San Antonio Spurs

LAST SEASON: 57-25, eliminated 4-2 by Lakers in conference semifinals.

COACH: Gregg Popovich, ninth season, 396-210.

ADDED: G Brent Barry (free agent, SuperSonics), F Linas Kleiza (free agent, Johnson (free agent, Bulls), C Ruben Boumrie-Bourme (free agent, Trail Blazers), F Tony Massenburg (free agent, Kings), G Beno Udoh (draft, No. 28, Brazil, Milano).

LOST: G Ron Mercer (free agent, New Jersey), F Hedo Turkoglu (free agent, Orlando), C Kevin Willis (free agent, Atlanta), G Jason Hart (free agent, Charlotte), G Charlie Ward (free agent, Houston).

BETTER OR WORSE?: A huge problem last season was the lack of a consistent outside shooter to take the heat off Tim Duncan on the inside, and the Spurs couldn't have found a much better one than Barry, whose .452 accuracy rate was the league's second-best.

Putting Barry alongside Tony Parker, Duncan, Facundo Nesterovic and Manu Ginobili gives San Antonio a strong core that should win the West and advance to the NBA Finals.

Houston Rockets

LAST SEASON: 45-37, eliminated 4-1 by Lakers in first round, missed playoffs.

COACH: Jeff Van Gundy, second season with Rockets, ninth season overall, 293-209.

ADDED: G Nick Van Exel (trade with Warriors), G Richie Farmer (free agent, Bobcats), G Sebastian Telford (draft, No. 13 (N.Y.) H.S.), C Joel Przytyl (free agent, Hawks).

LOST: D Dale Davis, G Miles Dickie (traded to Golden State), G Steve Gill (traded to New Jersey).

BETTER OR WORSE?: Weren't about to find a taker for Steve Abdul-Rahim, who has been unhappy with Portland ever since arriving along with The Ratliff last February in a midseason trade. There aren't enough minutes to keep both Van Exel and Damon Stoudamire happy at point guard. Look for a big shakeup by midseason. If the Blazers start poorly, with everyone expendable.

Dallas Mavericks

LAST SEASON: 54-30, eliminated 4-1 by Sacramento in first round.

COACH: Don Nelson, eighth season with Mavs, 297-229 season overall, 1148-858.

ADDED: G Jason Terry, F Alan Henderson (trade with Hawks), G Jerry Stackhouse (trade with Wizards), C Erick Dampier (free agent, Kings), F Dan Dikari (trade with Warriors), C Calvin Booth (trade with Sonics), G Devin Harris (draft, No. 5, Wisconsin), F Avery Johnson (free agent, Warriors).

LOST: G Steve Nash (free agent, Phoenix), F Antawn Jamison (traded to Washington), F Antonio Walker, G Tony Delk (traded to Atlanta), F Danny Fortson (traded to Seattle), C Eddie House (traded to Golden State), G Travis Best (free agent, New Jersey), F Scott Williams (free agent, Cleveland).

BETTER OR WORSE?: Dampier provides something the Mavericks have been lacking for years, a legitimate low-post threat — and he comes at a time when the Western Conference has been depleted of the game's most

dominant big man. Michael Finley will be asked to assume some of the starting load that dropped off for him the past two seasons, and the presence of Dampier means the team's defenses will not be able to rely on Dirk Nowitzki as much as they did in the past. It remains to be seen whether Terry can adequately replace Nash.

Memphis Grizzlies

LAST SEASON: 50-32, eliminated 4-0 by Spurs in first round.

COACH: Hubie Brown, third season with Grizzlies, 78-76; 13th season overall, 419-488.

ADDED: F Brian Cardinal (free agent, Warriors).

LOST: F Theron Smith (expansion selection, Charlotte), F Theron Smith (expansion selection, Charlotte).

OR WORSE?: In an improved conference, it'd be difficult for the Grizzlies to sneak up on people as they did last season. Cardinal is a gritty addition to a front line that already includes Pau Gasol, but team chemistry after Jerry West again was unsuccessful in his quest to bring in a powerful center. Mike Miller's days in Memphis could be numbered if he doesn't produce quickly. Will Shane Battier do anything to justify West's faith in him?

New Orleans Hornets

LAST SEASON: 41-41, eliminated 4-3 by Miami in first round.

COACH: Byron Scott, first season with Hornets; 11th season overall, 149-138.

ADDED: G J.R. Smith (draft, No. 18, St. Benedict's (N.J.) Prep), F Chris Andersen (free agent, Nuggets), F Rodney Rogers (free agent, Nets), F Lee Nelson (free agent, Cavaliers), F Tremaine Fowlkes (free agent, Pistons), F Britton Johnson (free agent, Magic).

LOST: F Jamal Mashburn (injured), G Courtney Alexander (free agent, Sacramento), G Steve Smith (free agent, Charlotte), F Stacey Augmon (free agent, Orlando), F Robert Taylor (free agent, Cleveland).

BETTER OR WORSE?: Thanks to realignment and Mashburn's season-long absence with a knee injury, the Hornets should take a precipitous fall now that they've moved to the deeper Western Conference. Smith has looked impressive in the preseason, and he might even make David Wesley expendable. Baron Davis has calmed down after requesting a trade in the offseason.

Jamal Maguire also wants out. Rumors have swirled for months that the Suns would trade Marou for a big man to play alongside Amare Stoudamire. Plenty of teams would be eager to acquire Marou, a strong defender and all-around offensive threat, but there's a better chance that Joe Johnson gets traded first.

Phoenix Suns

LAST SEASON: 29-53, missed playoffs.

COACH: Mike D'Antoni, second season with Suns, 21-40; third season overall, 149-138.

ADDED: G Steve Nash (free agent, Mavericks), G Quentin Richardson (free agent, Clippers), C Steven Hunter (free agent, Pistons).

LOST: F Antonio McDyess (free agent, Detroit), C David White (expansion selection, Charlotte), F Donald Harvey (free agent, Atlanta).

BETTER OR WORSE?: Signed a free agent, upgraded their backcourt with two signings of Richardson and Nash, but didn't add much height to a team that's quickness is its strength. Rumors have swirled for months that the Suns would trade Marou for a big man to play alongside Amare Stoudamire. Plenty of teams would be eager to acquire Marou, a strong defender and all-around offensive threat, but there's a better chance that Joe Johnson gets traded first.

Pacific Division

Los Angeles Lakers

LAST SEASON: 56-26, lost 4-1 to Detroit Pistons in NBA Finals.

COACH: Rudy Tomjanovich, first season with Lakers, 13th season overall, 503-397.

ADDED: F Lamar Odom, F Carson Butler, F Brian Grant (trade with Detroit), G Chuckie Atkins, C Chris Mihm, F Jamaune Jones (trade with Celtics), C Vladi Divac (free agent, Kings), G Sasha Vujacic (draft, No. 27, Snidero).

LOST: C Shaquille O'Neal (traded to Miami), G Gary Payton (traded to Boston), F Rick Fox (retired), F Karl Malone (free agent), F Byron Russell (free agent, Denver), C Jamal Sampson (expansion selection, Charlotte), G Derek Fisher (free agent, Golden State).

BETTER OR WORSE?: That's the major question following the breakup of the league's marquee team, mainly through the trade of O'Neal and the departure of O'Neal's former clear the way for the re-signing of former Kobe Bryant. The Lakers acquired quite a bit of talent in the O'Neal trade, and as coach Phil Jackson means an end to the triangle offense that so cramped Bryant's style over the past five years, it's an issue unless Malone decides to return after his knee heals from offseason surgery.

Sacramento Kings

LAST SEASON: 55-27, eliminated 4-3 by Houston in second round.

COACH: Rich Adelman, seventh season with Kings, 296-136; 15th season overall, 659-411.

ADDED: G Greg Oestler (free agent, Jazz), G Courtney Alexander (free agent, Hornets), G Kevin Martin (draft, No. 26, Western Carolina).

LOST: C Vladi Divac (free agent, L.A. Lakers), F Gerald Wallace (free agent, Hornets), G Rodney Buford (free agent, New Jersey), G Tony Peeler (free agent, Washington), F Tony Massenburg (free agent, San Antonio).

BETTER OR WORSE?: Actually, they were worse from the moment Chris Webber returned from a knee injury last season. If Webber went to the bench and the team lost all of its final 24 games, Paja Stojakovic acquired for a trade in the offseason, and the team reportedly shipped Webber without finding any takers, Mike can move back into the middle as the starting center now that Divac is gone. But how much does shooting guard Doug Christie have left? This seems to be a franchise whose window of opportunity is quickly closing.

Phoenix Suns

LAST SEASON: 29-53, missed playoffs.

COACH: Mike D'Antoni, second season with Suns, 21-40; third season overall, 149-138.

ADDED: G Steve Nash (free agent, Mavericks), G Quentin Richardson (free agent, Clippers), C Steven Hunter (free agent, Pistons).

LOST: F Antonio McDyess (free agent, Detroit), C David White (expansion selection, Charlotte), F Donald Harvey (free agent, Atlanta).

BETTER OR WORSE?: Signed a free agent, upgraded their backcourt with two signings of Richardson and Nash, but didn't add much height to a team that's quickness is its strength. Rumors have swirled for months that the Suns would trade Marou for a big man to play alongside Amare Stoudamire. Plenty of teams would be eager to acquire Marou, a strong defender and all-around offensive threat, but there's a better chance that Joe Johnson gets traded first.

Golden State Warriors

LAST SEASON: 37-45, missed playoffs.

COACH: Mike Montgomery, first season.

ADDED: C Dale Davis (trade with Trail Blazers), C Eduardo Najera (trade with Mavericks), G Derek Fisher (free agent, Lakers), G Brandon Armstrong (free agent, Nets), G Ansu Sesay (draft, No. 11, Sicron Riga, Latvia).

BETTER OR WORSE?: Signed a free agent, upgraded their backcourt with two signings of Richardson and Nash, but didn't add much height to a team that's quickness is its strength. Rumors have swirled for months that the Suns would trade Marou for a big man to play alongside Amare Stoudamire. Plenty of teams would be eager to acquire Marou, a strong defender and all-around offensive threat, but there's a better chance that Joe Johnson gets traded first.

Golden State Warriors

LAST SEASON: 37-45, missed playoffs.

COACH: Mike Montgomery, first season.

ADDED: C Dale Davis (trade with Trail Blazers), C Eduardo Najera (trade with Mavericks), G Derek Fisher (free agent, Lakers), G Brandon Armstrong (free agent, Nets), G Ansu Sesay (draft, No. 11, Sicron Riga, Latvia).

BETTER OR WORSE?: Signed a free agent, upgraded their backcourt with two signings of Richardson and Nash, but didn't add much height to a team that's quickness is its strength. Rumors have swirled for months that the Suns would trade Marou for a big man to play alongside Amare Stoudamire. Plenty of teams would be eager to acquire Marou, a strong defender and all-around offensive threat, but there's a better chance that Joe Johnson gets traded first.

Golden State Warriors

LAST SEASON: 37-45, missed playoffs.

COACH: Mike Montgomery, first season.

ADDED: C Dale Davis (trade with Trail Blazers), C Eduardo Najera (trade with Mavericks), G Derek Fisher (free agent, Lakers), G Brandon Armstrong (free agent, Nets), G Ansu Sesay (draft, No. 11, Sicron Riga, Latvia).

BETTER OR WORSE?: Signed a free agent, upgraded their backcourt with two signings of Richardson and Nash, but didn't add much height to a team that's quickness is its strength. Rumors have swirled for months that the Suns would trade Marou for a big man to play alongside Amare Stoudamire. Plenty of teams would be eager to acquire Marou, a strong defender and all-around offensive threat, but there's a better chance that Joe Johnson gets traded first.

Golden State Warriors

LAST SEASON: 37-45, missed playoffs.

COACH: Mike Montgomery, first season.

ADDED: C Dale Davis (trade with Trail Blazers), C Eduardo Najera (trade with Mavericks), G Derek Fisher (free agent, Lakers), G Brandon Armstrong (free agent, Nets), G Ansu Sesay (draft, No. 11, Sicron Riga, Latvia).

BETTER OR WORSE?: Signed a free agent, upgraded their backcourt with two signings of Richardson and Nash, but didn't add much height to a team that's quickness is its strength. Rumors have swirled for months that the Suns would trade Marou for a big man to play alongside Amare Stoudamire. Plenty of teams would be eager to acquire Marou, a strong defender and all-around offensive threat, but there's a better chance that Joe Johnson gets traded first.

SEE CAPSULES ON PAGE 31

Sprewell to ask for trade if he doesn't get extension

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Latrell Sprewell says he'll ask to be traded if the Minnesota Timberwolves don't sign him to a contract extension by Wednesday night's opener.

"I think this thing is heading to who's not leaving, personally," Sprewell told reporters on Sunday. But on Monday, he said that if no resolution is reached, he'll step up.

"The talks aren't really going good," he said Monday. "[I] don't look like it's going to happen. That isn't play. I'm not going to play. I'll mean 'I'."

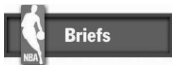
Earlier this preseason, Sprewell said he wanted a contract extension by the Wolves' Nov. 3 opener against the New York Knicks, or he would ask for a sign-and-trade deal or wait to become a free agent. Either way, Sprewell said he didn't want to negotiate during the season.

Neither Sprewell's agent, Robert Gist, nor Timberwolves owner Glen Taylor immediately returned phone messages left by The Associated Press on Monday. Sprewell, Sam Cassell and league MVP Kevin Garnett formed the NBA's highest scoring trio last year in leading the Wolves to the Western Conference finals. Sprewell averaged 16.8 points last season and is due to make \$14.6 million this year.

Sprewell has said he doesn't want to take a pay cut. But at 34, the Wolves could be hesitant to oblige. Sprewell described the team's latest offer as "insulting."

Spurs sign guard Parker to contract extension

SAN ANTONIO — Point guard



Briefs

Tony Parker agreed to a long-term contract extension with the San Antonio Spurs on Monday night.

Terms of the deal were not released. San Antonio scheduled a news conference for Tuesday.

The 22-year-old Frenchman averaged 14.6 points and 5.5 assists last season.

Parker, a three-year veteran, has averaged 13.1 points and 5.0 assists in 234 career games and helped lead the Spurs to the NBA championship in 2002-03.

Blazers forward Randolph agrees to extension

PORTLAND, Ore. — Portland forward Zach Randolph agreed to a six-year, \$84 million contract extension with the Trail Blazers on Monday.

Randolph originally was seeking a six-year, \$86 million extension, the maximum allowed under the league's collective bargaining agreement. He can make an additional \$2.5 million if he is named to the All-Star team each year over the duration of the contract, putting him at \$86 million, according to his agent, Raymond Brothers.

"I feel like I'm one of the best players in my class, and I feel like I deserved it," Randolph said. Randolph averaged 20.1 points and 10.5 rebounds last season and was voted the NBA's most improved player.

The 6-foot-9 forward had 43 double-doubles last season, tying for fifth in the league. He scored



Minnesota Timberwolves' Latrell Sprewell, part of the NBA's highest-scoring trio last season, is unwilling to take a pay cut.

20 or more points in 42 games as Portland finished 41-41, good for 10th in the Western Conference, two spots out of the playoffs.

Divac one of three Lakers placed on injured list

LOS ANGELES — The Lakers placed center Vlade Divac and forwards Deven George and Slava Medvedenko on the injured list and waived guard Tony Bobbitt on Monday.

Divac has a herniated disk in his lower back; George is recovering from off-season surgery on his left ankle, and Medvedenko has a

sore right heel. All will miss a minimum of five games.

76ers will try to trade injured forward Robinson

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia 76ers placed 11-year veteran Glenn Robinson on the injured list Monday with left ankle tendinitis and will try to trade the former No. 1 pick.

Sixers General Manager Billy King indicated that he and new coach Jim O'Brien had reached the conclusion that trading the 31-year-old forward would be the best thing for all parties.

"With the direction we want to go and the way Jim wants to play, it may not benefit Glenn," King said. "I don't think Glenn's lost any of his skill level. It's just the way we're going as an organization."

O'Brien said Robinson, who average 16.6 points per game last season — down from his career average of 20.8 — needs a change of scenery for the third time in his career.

"He needs to start for a team and put up numbers," O'Brien said. "I think he could fit. He's just not fitting in our starting line-up."

Bobcats place 3 on injured list

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Charlotte Bobcats placed forwards Jamal Sampson and Theron Smith and guard Keith Bogans on the injured list Monday.

Bogans, acquired Monday in a trade with the Orlando Magic, was placed on the injured list because he has not yet had a physical. Sampson has a right ankle injury, and Smith has been battling swelling in his right knee.

Knicks guard Houston to start season on injured list

NEW YORK — The New York Knicks placed guard Allan Houston and Jamison Brewer and center Bruno Sundov on the injured list Monday.

Houston will start the season on the injured list because of chronic pain in his left knee.

Brewer has a sprained right big toe and Sundov right Achilles' tendinitis.

Bucks' Ford, Hamilton go on injured list

MILWAUKEE — The Milwaukee Bucks placed guard T.J. Ford and forward Zondan Hamilton on the injured list Monday night.

Ford is continuing his recovery from spinal cord surgery, while Hamilton is recuperating from arthroscopic surgery on his right knee.

Ford was sidelined for the last two months of last season and had surgery in May. He was leading all rookies in assists and ranked ninth in the NBA before he was hurt Feb. 24 when he landed on his tailbone against Minnesota.

Magic place three on injured list

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Orlando Magic placed centers The Orlando DeClercq and Mario Kasun and forward Brandon Hunter on the injured list Monday.

The move was expected for DeClercq, who had right knee surgery in July and didn't play in the preseason.

Hunter, acquired Monday from the Charlotte Bobcats for Keith Bogans, is out with tendinitis in his right Achilles' tendon. Kasun will miss time with tendinitis in his left knee.

NBA capsules

CAPSULES, FROM PAGE 30

LOST: C Erick Dampier, C Evan Eschmeyer, G Dan Dickau (traded to Dallas), G Nick Van Exel (traded to Portland), F Brian Cardinal (free agent, Memphis), G Avery Johnson (free agent, Dallas).

BETTER OR WORSE?: Hard to see any improvement coming from a team that dealt away two of its top three scorers and received very little in return. Jason Richardson has developed into a low-level talent and the league's shooting guards, but there's little else to get excited about here.

Los Angeles Clippers

LAST SEASON: 28-54, missed playoffs.

COACH: Mike Dunleavy, second season with Warriors; 12th season overall, 426-444.

ADDED: G Kerry Kittles (trade with New York), G Shaun Livingston (draft, No. 4, Peoria (Ill.) Central HS), C Zeljko Rebraica (free agent, Houston).

LOST: G Quentin Richardson (free agent, Phoenix), G Eddie House, F Melvin Ely (traded to Charlotte), C Fredrick Ogburn (separated from Charlotte), G Keyon Dooling (free agent, Miami).

BETTER OR WORSE?: Kittles and Richardson are potential interchangeable parts, but a knee problem has sidelined Kittles throughout the preseason. A franchise that hasn't won a playoff game since 1953 has zero chance of ending that streak.

Marquee: Despite trades, West still more talented

MARQUEE, FROM PAGE 28

Also opportunistic were the Houston Rockets, who sent Steve Francis, Cuttino Mobley and Kelvin Cato to Orlando for reigning scoring champ Tracy McGrady.

The Spurs found a way to plug their biggest hole, signing outside shooting specialist Brent Barry as a free agent. Dallas, meanwhile, made wholesale changes by allowing Steve Nash to leave for Phoenix, acquiring Jerry Stackhouse, Jason Terry and Erick Dampier and parting ways with Antawn Jamison and Antoine Walker.

"I would say that it's a big jumble and we don't know who is going to come out of it on top," Mavericks coach Don Nelson said.

There's been talk that the balance of power has shifted from West to East due to the Pistons' success and O'Neal's relocation, but the Western Conference still has the larger number of quality teams able to compete for a championship.

Denver, coming off a dramatic

turnaround that gave the Nuggets their first playoff appearance since 1995, added Kenyon Martin without having to trade a live body. Utah revamped its frontcourt by signing free agents Carlos Boozer and Mehmet Okur, and Phoenix overhauled its backcourt by bringing in Nash and Quentin Richardson.

"I would say this year only 15 teams in the Western Conference think they're making the playoffs, which is all of them. And only 10 of those 15 think they're going to get homecourt advantage," Houston coach Jeff Van Gundy said. "Two teams that think they're going to get homecourt advantage aren't even going to make the playoffs. So it's a difficult assignment."

The Van Gundy brothers now have two of the most potent centers in the league at their disposal, Jeff entering his second season with Yao Ming, Stan taking over from Jackson as O'Neal's coach.

Doc Rivers has taken over in Boston, while ex-Celtics coach Tim O'Brien has moved down the road to Philadelphia.



The Denver Nuggets added former New Jersey Net Kenyon Martin (6'7") to a lineup that made its first playoff appearance since 1995.

The New Jersey Nets, winners of two of the last three Eastern Conference titles, have been decimated by the trades of Martin and Kerry Kittles and an injury to Jason Kidd that will sideline him for the early part of the season.

The expansion Charlotte Bobcats have joined the league as its 30th franchise, debuting in the new Southeast Division as part of the league's realignment from four divisions to six.

The winners of each division — the East now has the Atlantic, Central and Southeast; the West is comprised of the Pacific, Southwest and Northwest — will be seeded first through third in the postseason, and the five teams in each conference with the best remaining records will fill out the playoff fields.

"I think the best team is in the East, and that's Detroit," Rivers said. "I think the West still is more talented than the East, but the East is catching up."

SPORTS



With the Huskies 1-7, Washington announces that coach Gilbertson will resign at end of year, Page 26

Double take in Pittsburgh



AP
Steelers rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, 5-0 as Pittsburgh's starter, ranks fourth in the NFL in passer rating (104.7) and second in completion percentage (70.1).

After conquest of Pats, Steelers get ready to host unbeaten Eagles

BY ALAN ROBINSON
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — He wasn't yet born the last time the Pittsburgh Steelers won the Super Bowl. That isn't preventing rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger from bringing back the memories of the greatest times — and the greatest teams — in franchise history.

The Steelers are 6-1 after ending New England's 21-game winning streak with a dominating 34-20 victory Sunday in which Roethlisberger improved to 5-0 as a starter. In a fitting throwback to the days when the Steelers won four Super Bowls in six seasons, Roethlisberger is off to the best start by an NFL rookie quarterback since Pittsburgh's Mike Kruczek was 6-0 in 1976.

"We have a rookie quarterback who is playing tremendous," linebacker Joey Porter said.

The Steelers need him to keep playing that well Sunday against the Philadelphia Eagles (7-0) as they try to accomplish something no NFL team has done so late in a season: beat undefeated teams in successive weeks.

Just playing unbeaten teams in consecutive games past the early weeks of a season is a rare occurrence; it hasn't happened since the Detroit Lions lost twice to the undefeated Chicago Bears to close the 1934 season. It also occurred in 1921, when Dayton played Akron (7-0-1) and Buffalo (7-0-2), and in 1920, when Canton met Buffalo (7-0) and Akron (6-0-1).

"Everybody's antennas across the country are starting to go up a little bit," wide receiver Plaxico Burress said, referring to the Steelers' new-found notoriety.

That's largely because of a 22-year-old quarterback who plays like he's much older. Because of Roethlisberger, the Steelers, 6-10 season ago, are hearing about all this ancient history.



AP
Former Eagles running back Duce Staley, who ran for 125 yards in Pittsburgh's 34-20 victory over New England on Sunday, has four 100-yard games in his first season with the Steelers.

■ They have their best seven-game record in Bill Cowher's 13 seasons as coach; they've been 5-2 five times. It's also their best start since a franchise-best 7-0 in 1978, the season they won the third of their four Super Bowls.

■ The Steelers have made the playoffs every other season they were 6-1 or better (1978, 1975, 1974, 1973) and won the Super Bowl three of those times.

■ Coincidentally or not, the Steelers will recognize the 25th anniversary of their last Super

Bowl championship team by saluting the 1979 Steelers on Sunday. Hall of Famer Terry Bradshaw was the quarterback of that team, yet his 1970 rookie numbers (six touchdowns, 24 interceptions) can't compare to Roethlisberger's (70.1 completion percentage, a 104.7 passer rating, 9 touchdowns, four interceptions, one interception in his past 116 passes).

"We keep saying it over and over again: Let's not get too excited," Roethlisberger said.

SEE DOUBLE ON PAGE 26



First-place Jets run all over hapless Dolphins in prime time

Page 25



NBA preview: League seeking more star power after a breakup in Hollywood

Pages 28-31



Usually bowled over in big games, No. 6 Texas makes a notable leap in the BCS standings

Page 26

Lowe, Varitek lead parade of 10 Red Sox into free agency Page 27